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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 22 PAGES OF TIMES ENGINEERING

CELEBRATING EID

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

PM Modi asks ministers to 'practice what they preach' by cutting down their vehicle fleets and opting for carpooling for common meetings, noting that his appeal is not being followed

UN climate body chief Simon Stiell says **India's extreme heat is likely to worsen**, warning that the severe heatwave is **largely driven by the world burning huge amounts of coal, oil and gas**

Anik Dutta, acclaimed for the 2012 satirical hit 'Bhooter Bhobishyot,' **dies after falling from the terrace of his south Kolkata residence** under circumstances now being probed

Assam assembly clears UCC Bill to introduce a common legal framework for marriage, divorce, inheritance and live-in relationships irrespective of religion, **with opposition calling it BJP's 'political agenda'**

K'taka Shakti scheme boosts muzrai revenue

Karnataka's Shakti scheme, which allows women free rides on state govt buses, has emerged a major driver of religious tourism, boosting revenues of top muzrai temples by 8.6% — from Rs 613.5 crore to Rs 666.2 crore — in 2025-26. Kukke Subrahmanya temple retained the top position among Karnataka's highest revenue-generating shrines. **P 6**

NEET: Latur doc is 13th arrest in case

CBI on Wednesday arrested Latur paediatrician Manoj Shirure in the NEET-UG paper leak, taking the total number of people held to 13. Shirure was one of 5 doctors suspected of paying for access to leaked papers for their kin. He was being questioned for the past week. **P 17**

Iran releases Indian sailors held in 2025

Iran released 10 Indian sailors detained after the MV Harbour Phoenix was intercepted near Jask Port in July 2025, India's shipping directorate said. The tanker was seized over alleged diesel smuggling. Officials said they are arranging for the crew's return. **P 17**

Pioneering shooter Randhir Singh dies

Randhir Singh, India's pioneering shooter, Olympian and veteran sports administrator, passed away on Wednesday. The 79-year-old had bagged India's first gold in shooting at the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok. **P 26**

Democracy is about eligible voters: SC validates Bihar SIR

EC Can Make 'Prelim Inquiry' Into Citizenship

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday validated Election Commission's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar electoral rolls, rejected Opposition's stand that it was an arbitrary and exclusionary exercise and said SIR was carried out as per the EC's constitutional mandate of ensuring free and fair elections, which are founded on the integrity, accuracy and purity of voter lists.

▶**EDIT PAGE: Yes SIR, But Also No SIR**

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also said that in preparation of electoral rolls, EC has the right to conduct a preliminary inquiry into citizenship of a person seeking to be included as a voter as only an Indian can exercise the right to franchise.

Writing the 124-page judgment disposing of a dozen petitions filed by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, social activist Yogendra Yadav, TMC's Mahua Moitra, RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha and Congress's K C Venugopal, among others, CJI Kant said, "EC is empowered, in the exercise of its constitutional mandate, to undertake a limited enquiry into citizenship for the purpose of satisfying itself as to eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll."

This marks a repudiation of petitioners' stand that EC had no power to inquire into citizenship status of voters for the purpose of inclusion or deletion from voter lists, though SC clarified that such an enquiry does not amount to a determination of citizenship in the strict sense, and any subsequent action is confined to electoral consequences alone.

▶**Continued on P 17**

'NOT AN ARBITRARY EXERCISE'

"THE STORY OF DEMOCRACY IS NOT ONLY A STORY OF VOTING, BUT ALSO OF IDENTIFYING PERSONS ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN CHOICE OF GOVT

ON DELETED NAMES
Competent authority (MHA) shall take necessary decision in accordance with law, preferably before next elections... after giving notice and opportunity of hearing to deleted individuals

EC'S LIST OF DOCUMENTS
Classification of documents, including exclusion of certain categories (apart from Aadhaar, which SC later included), is based on intelligible criteria having direct nexus with objective of ensuring integrity of roll

VALIDITY OF EARLIER ROLLS
The presumption of validity continues to have relevance in shaping safeguards that must accompany any process of verification

—SC bench of CJI Surya Kant & Justice Joymalya Bagchi

SC asks EC to consider time-stamped VVPATs

SC has decided to send to EC a PIL seeking time-stamping of VVPATs — paper slips that match votes cast in EVMs — for examining its technical feasibility, clarifying that the issue was in the poll panel's domain. The petitioner had asked for the feature in the interest of transparency, given the oft-seen trend of last-minute surge in voting. **P 12**

Gaming firms face ₹2.5L cr hit as SC upholds 28% GST

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New Delhi: In a big setback to online gaming companies which are facing show-cause notices for GST evasion of around Rs 2.5 lakh crore (including penalty), Supreme Court Wednesday upheld imposition of 28% tax on the full face value of online gaming bets and validated rules under CGST for determining valuation of taxable supplies for lotteries, betting, gambling, horse racing and casinos.

Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said there was no constitutional infirmity in levying GST on online games and declared it valid.

▶**Collegium clears 4 HC CJs for elevation to SC, P 11**

K'taka, TN justified in banning gaming

Highlighting that addiction to online betting is creating disturbance in society and damaging social tranquility, Supreme Court upheld the decisions taken by the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka govts to prohibit and criminalise online games played for money or stakes. The bench said that Madras and Karnataka HC erred in giving narrow interpretation to the law. **P 17**

In June last year, court had stayed Goods and Services Tax proceedings against 49 online gaming firms over retrospective demand notices to them. It extended the protection granted to them for another three months.

In Oct 2023, GST Council had imposed 28% tax on full face value of online gaming bets. Gaming industry, however, has been advocating for the tax to be calculated on gross gaming revenue (GGR) rather than face value of bets.

The companies had received show-cause notices alleging GST evasion of Rs 1.12 lakh crore. As GST Act allows for a penalty of up to 100% of tax demand, the total liability will add up to around Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Examining the issue, SC said online gaming firms aren't mere facilitators or intermediaries but suppliers of actionable claims and therefore liable to pay GST.

▶**Skill-based games, P 17**

HDFC shares fall 2.6% over 'extra payout' report

Reports that HDFC Bank used "marketing expenses" to compensate a state agency for placing large deposits rattled investors, with the bank's shares falling 2.6%, erasing over Rs 30,000 cr in market cap in a single day. Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation officials said the 1.5% payout was a long-standing business model and an industry-wide convention. The bank rejected any wrongdoing even as an internal RBI probe was underway. **P 19**

Corruption in judiciary; judges not holy cows: HC

Chennai: Corruption within judiciary cannot be denied, Madras HC observed while defending free speech in a judgment on Tamil film 'Karuppu' and said, "Judges need not be treated as holy cows", **reports Venkadesan S.**

A vacation bench of Justice GR Swaminathan and Justice V Lakshminarayanan referred to past public remarks by former CJI SP Bharucha as well as SC rulings acknowledging judicial corruption. The higher judiciary regularly acts against "black sheep" within the system, it said. "None can deny there is corruption in the judiciary. There were and are corrupt judges."

▶**'Open to criticism,' P 15**

Court orders cow slaughter ban in TN

A vacation bench of Madras high court has imposed a blanket ban on cow slaughter in Tamil Nadu, directing the state govt to ensure that no cow or calf is slaughtered on the eve of Eid al-Adha or "on any other day". **P 8**

Twisha case: HC cancels MIL's anticipatory bail

The MP HC has quashed anticipatory bail granted to former district judge Giribala Singh, the mother-in-law of Twisha Sharma whose unnatural death is being probed by CBI. The court observed the trial court overlooked material available in case diary, witness statements, and family allegations. The HC also took note of submission that she had allegedly not cooperated fully with the investigation despite notices. CBI is likely to take her into custody. TNN

ED raids ex-Kerala CM Pinarayi's house

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram: ED on Wednesday carried out searches at the residence of ex-Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in connection with its probe into the money laundering charge against his daughter, triggering violent protest from a mob which attacked the investigators and "vandalised" their cars.

Veena — married to Mohammad Riyas, who was an influential minister in the Pinarayi govt — lives with her father. ED has been investigating why her company Exalogic Solutions in 2018-19 received money from publicly listed Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd, which deals in mining, even though her firm had provided no service to CMRL. It is also probing CMRL's suspicious cash payments of Rs 134 crore, which included alleged payoffs to various politicians, bureaucrats and others.

Officials said their cars were hit with bricks and iron rods while they were leaving.

▶**Reminiscent of..., P 8**

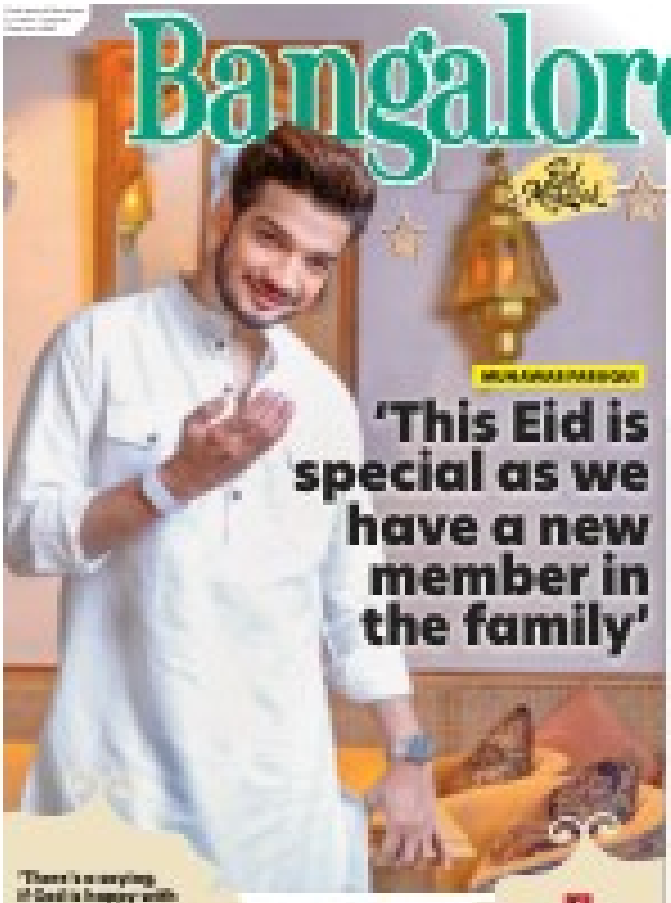
ANI

CPM workers attack a vehicle of ED officials Wednesday

Thrice rebuffed for US visa, he's now part of $1tn co CEO club

In 1976, Kanpur-born BITS Pilani student Sanjay Mehrotra was denied a US student visa three times until his father waited at the Delhi embassy to confront the consular officer, who relented. Nearly 50 years later, Mehrotra leads Micron Technology, which has crossed a $1 trillion market cap, placing him in the $1tn co CEO club. His rise adds to the Indian-born leadership of trillion-dollar giants, alongside Satya Nadella at Microsoft and Sundar Pichai at Alphabet, reshaping corporate America. **P 18**

Bangalore Times

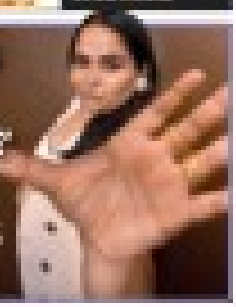


'This Eid is special as we have a new member in the family'

'There's a saying, if God is happy with you, he gives you a son, and if he is very happy with you, he gives you a daughter'

Ranveer Singh's Pralay unaffected by FWICE directive

'WOMEN COMICS FACE SCRUTINY SIMPLY FOR TAKING THE STAGE'



P4

Niranjan Sudhindra gets engaged to Dr Sanjana Raj; wedding set for November

Cannes Film Festival is much more than just the red carpet: Iti Acharya

END OF AN ERA? Ever Since He Joined Congress From JD(S) In 2006, Siddaramaiah Has Served As LoP, CM Or Legislature Party Chief

Siddaramaiah set to end longest leadership chapter in Karnataka

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File photo

FORMIDABLE RECORD: Siddaramaiah is the state's longest serving CM and presented a record 17 budgets

Bengaluru: Should Siddaramaiah resign as chief minister as widely expected, his departure will bring the curtains down on one of the most influential and enduring political careers in Karnataka Congress history.

Siddaramaiah, 78, leaves a legacy built on welfare politics, backward class mobilisation and legislative dominance that shaped Karnataka Congress' trajectory for nearly two decades. Currently, he remains the only OBC member heading a Congress govt in the country and a veteran who presented a record 17 state budgets, including the one in Feb this year.

Just prior to that feat, on Jan 7, he became Karnataka's longest-serving CM, overtaking his political mentor D Devaraj Urs. Siddaramaiah has so far completed eight years and 12 days as CM across two terms and like Urs, Siddaramaiah, who hails from Mysuru and belongs to a backward community, built his politics around welfare measures and social justice initiatives targeting marginalised groups.

Since joining Congress in 2006, Siddaramaiah remained the party's central legislative figure for nearly 17 years, serving continuously either as CM or opposition leader. He emerged as Congress' undisputed mass leader in the state and retained strong control over the legislature party through changing political phases. He served as leader of opposition between 2009 and 2013 before leading Congress to a decisive election victory in 2013. He then completed a full five-year term as chief minister between 2013 and 2018.

Even after Congress failed to secure a majority in 2018, Siddaramaiah continued as Congress Legislature Party leader. Following the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition govt, he again became leader of opposition from 2019 to 2023. When Congress returned to the helm in 2023, he again won the leadership contest despite stiff competition from DK Shivakumar.

Propelled by padayatra

One of the defining moments of his political rise was the 320km padayatra from Bengaluru to Ballari against alleged illegal mining by the Reddy brothers and their associates. The campaign significantly boosted Congress ahead of the 2013 polls and boosted Siddaramaiah's image and prospects.

Political analyst Prof Ravindra Reshme said: "Siddaramaiah's stature within the legislature party has often gone beyond the formal post, with most Congress MLAs traditionally identifying with his leadership. Even during opposition years, he remained the principal face of the party in the assembly and continued to dominate legislative strategy."

During his first tenure, Siddaramaiah emerged as a key architect of the Ahinda social coalition representing minorities, backward classes and Dalits. His govt introduced the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan Act and commissioned the state's first caste survey, though it was never implemented due to opposition.

Born into a modest Kuruba family, Siddaramaiah began his career as a lawyer before entering the assembly from Chamundeshwari in Mysuru in 1983. Re-elected in 1985, he became minister for animal husbandry and veterinary services in the Ramakrishna Hegde govt. He later held several senior positions in Janata Dal govts, including deputy chief minister in the JH Patel govt in 1996 and leader of opposition when BJP was at the helm.

Changing tack

His political fallout with JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda over the chief minister's post in 2004 altered the course of his career. After serving briefly as deputy CM in the Congress-JD(S) coalition govt between 2004 and 2005, Siddaramaiah was expelled from JD(S) in 2005. He joined Congress the following year.

During his second term as CM, Siddaramaiah implemented internal reservation, though the move is currently facing legal scrutiny. A second caste survey conducted during his tenure is also awaiting implementation.

However, his career was not without a blot. The controversy surrounding the Hublot watch issue during his first tenure as CM and the Mysuru Urban Development Authority land allotment case involving his family members in the second dented his image, though he received a clean chit in both cases.

HIGHS

- Siddaramaiah is currently the only OBC CM heading a Congress govt in the country
- He fell out with HD Deve Gowda and JD(S) after which he joined Congress in 2006
- For nearly 17 years, he has continuously served as either CM or leader of the opposition
- Built his political identity around welfare politics, Ahinda coalition and social justice initiatives.
- Became Karnataka's longest-serving CM, surpassing D Devaraj Urs
- Presented a record 17 state budgets
- His 320km padayatra against illegal mining in Ballari was a turning point

LOWS

- The Hublot watch controversy
- Mysuru Urban Development Authority land allotment case

File photos

KEEPING THE FAITH (Clockwise from top) DK Shivakumar at Sri Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru; Tirumala Tirupati in Andhra and Male Mahadeshwara in Chamarajanagar district

Temple trail & patience: How DKS waited for the top job

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Shivakumar at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam

Bengaluru: Whenever he was asked about his chances of becoming chief minister, one line DK Shivakumar often repeated over the past three years was: "Efforts may fail, but not prayers."

Shivakumar's long wait, marked by years of temple visits and spiritual outreach, may finally culminate in the top post — if Congress goes through with its plan of a chief minister switch.

Although Shivakumar played a key role in Congress' victory in 2023, party brass eventually chose Siddaramaiah as CM while installing Shivakumar as his deputy and retaining him as KPCC president. Since then, speculation over a rotational CM arrangement has persisted, although Shivakumar has largely refused to speak about it in public.

Especially in the past couple of years, Shivakumar has stepped up visits to prominent shrines across Karnataka and elsewhere. Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he toured temples across Dakshina Kannada district and Sringeri before launching Congress' campaign, describing the electoral battle as a "Dharma Yuddha".

After Congress returned to helm in 2023, he expanded his religious outreach beyond the state. He visited Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain and participated in the famed Bhasma Aarti, asserting: "Hindutva, temples and gods are not the property of any political party."

Before reaching Ujjain, he had offered prayers at Maa Pitambara Peeth temple in Datia, Madhya Pradesh. His repeated visits to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, especially when discussions on the CM issue intensified, also drew political attention.

In May this year, amid renewed buzz over an alleged "2.5-year power-sharing agreement" with Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar visited the Saneeswaran temple at Karaikal in Puducherry, the Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple in Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu and later Tirumala Tirupati.

His visit to Kamakhya temple in Guwahati ahead of elections there this year, further added to the political narrative surrounding his ambitions. After offering prayers, Shivakumar said he had sought blessings from "Maa Kamakhya" for "strength and prosperity".

However, his religious positioning has triggered debate within Congress. In Feb last year, he attended Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev's Maha Shivaratri celebrations at the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore alongside Union home minister Amit Shah. He described the event as "spiritually uplifting" but drew criticism from sections within Congress with some objecting to him sharing the stage with Shah and participating in an event linked to Sadhguru, whom critics accuse of being ideologically close to RSS.

He again courted controversy in Aug 2025 when he sang a few lines from the RSS prayer "Namaste Sada Vatsale Matrubhoome" during proceedings in the Karnataka assembly. BJP MLAs responded by thumping desks, while Congress legislators looked askance. He later apologised to party colleagues and reiterated his loyalty to Congress and the Gandhi family.

Shivakumar's journey towards the chief minister's office has stretched nearly two decades. From his beginnings as a grassroots Congress organiser in Kanakapura, he steadily emerged as one of the party's most influential members through organisational control, political resilience and proximity to the Gandhi family.

Shivakumar has repeatedly said he faced legal troubles and imprisonment because of his role as a troubleshooter for Congress during key political crises, including Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat in 2017.

SHORT TAKES

DKS supporters celebrate with sweets, firecrackers

Supporters of deputy CM DK Shivakumar broke into celebration in many parts of Karnataka amid intense speculation over a possible change of guard in the state. Supporters burst firecrackers and distributed sweets outside Shivakumar's residence in Bengaluru and in Ramanagara, the district headquarters of Bengaluru South. A supporter described Shivakumar as a "strong and decisive leader". "In 2023, he challenged BJP and RSS and delivered a strong performance. When he said he would win 130 seats, he delivered. He has worked very hard for the last three years," a supporter said.

TOI

BIDDING ADIEU: Dozens of employees on contract at Vidhana Soudha turned up to give Siddaramaiah an emotional farewell on Wednesday

CM supporters protest, detained

Chief minister Siddaramaiah's supporters gathered outside his official residence, Kaveri, on Kumara Krupa Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday, protesting the high command's alleged decision that he step down. Police took supporters into preventive custody. A large number of contractual employees turned up during Siddaramaiah's visit to Vidhana Souda. Many cried while waving him goodbye.

Aides urge CM to reconsider decision

Siddaramaiah, who unofficially told his supporters and aides that he would step down as CM, is said to have maintained stoic silence when they demanded that he fight back. Siddaramaiah's cabinet colleagues and others who met him Wednesday said he took the decision as a "loyal soldier" of Congress. Senior legislator and former minister RV Deshpande, who met Siddaramaiah, later said: "He has taken a stand and will resign."

Exit may hurt Congress' Ahinda support base

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In the 2023 elections, Congress won 37 of the 56 seats in Kittur Karnataka and 26 of the 40 seats in Hyderabad Karnataka, largely riding on Ahinda consolidation. Functionaries say, even when the party lost in 2018, Kuruba and Muslim voters helped keep it afloat, with Siddaramaiah narrowly winning from Badami in Bagalkot

Bengaluru: The move to replace chief minister Siddaramaiah with DK Shivakumar is likely to create more political challenges than benefits for Congress in Karnataka, considering his strong mass appeal among the party's core Ahinda support base comprising minorities, backward classes and Dalits.

A party veteran with decades of grassroots political influence, Siddaramaiah continues to enjoy significant support among Kurubas, Muslims, Dalits and several backward communities, making him one of Congress' tallest social coalition builders.

Party brass privately fear that his exit could trigger disappointment among these communities ahead of the 2028 assembly elections and weaken Congress' carefully built social arithmetic. BJP and JD(S) are also expected to aggressively target any possible dissatisfaction among these sections to regain political ground in key regions of the state.

Lacking widespread support

While Shivakumar is regarded as a strong organisational leader and troubleshooter, Congress functionaries say he does not yet enjoy the same widespread emotional connect and social support base among Ahinda communities that Siddaramaiah built over decades through welfare politics and backward class mobilisation.

"If Rahul Gandhi removes Siddaramaiah, the only OBC CM in Congress it will prove that he is not for OBCs," said Basavaraj Bommai, former CM and BJP MP. "His decision will impact the INDI alliance; OBC members in the alliance will not take this decision kindly."

Acutely aware of eroding its Ahinda support base, Congress' high command is learnt to be working on a major balancing exercise.

As part of the plan, it is considering PWD minister Satish Jarkiholi, an ST and Siddaramaiah confidant, for the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president's post. "I have already expressed my intent to lead the party but none from the high command have approached me yet," Jarkiholi said. "We will wait for the breakfast meeting on Thursday."

Besides other changes in KPCC organisation, Congress brass is also reportedly considering a "multiple deputy CM" formula if Shivakumar takes over as CM. Sources say names being discussed for the proposed posts include Yathindra Siddaramaiah (Kuruba community), Priyank Kharge (Dalit), either UT Khader or BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan (Muslim), and MB Patil or Eshwar Khadre (Lingayat).

Sources also say Rahul wants Karnataka to take a cue from Kerala and install a younger cabinet. This means at least 25 of the current ministers could be dropped.

> If reports that Siddaramaiah's resignation has been sought are true, 70% of the community that identified itself with Congress party will come to zero. We will show that in the days ahead. If a stalwart like Siddaramaiah, who has no allegations against him, is being replaced without reason, we will not stay quiet
> **Ramachandrappa** | PRESIDENT, KARNATAKA STATE FEDERATION OF BACKWARD CLASS COMMUNITIES

Crux is Kuruba vote

But it's the Kuruba and minority vote which has Congress worried. "The decision to ease Siddaramaiah out could backfire if he is seen to be unhappy over his exit," a party functionary said. "If that happens, the 2028 elections could see a strong anti-Congress wave."

Party functionaries say Kuruba voters play a decisive role in 60 to 70 seats across north Karnataka, especially in regions where Lingayats remain politically dominant. With Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, emerging as Siddaramaiah's likely successor, there are concerns that Lingayat voters, traditionally aligned with BJP, could consolidate against Congress.

Congress brass believes the party may make some gains among Vokkaligas, but it risks alienating Kuruba voters in parts of south Karnataka where the two communities are seen as political rivals.

"We definitely expect a backlash from the Kuruba community in north Karnataka districts and may lose about 5% of the community votes," said Basavaraj Rayareddi, economic adviser to Siddaramaiah.

Congress is also worried about the possible impact the Special Intensive revision of electoral rolls would have on Muslim voters in north and central Karnataka. "While Muslims may have no alternative but Congress in the current political climate, Siddaramaiah's exit will definitely leave his successor with an uphill task in convincing the minority community that he will be as accommodative as his predecessor," a Muslim community leader said.

Shivakumar may owe Priyanka much thanks

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Bengaluru: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is learnt to have played a decisive behind-the-scenes role in DK Shivakumar's likely elevation as chief minister during Wednesday's discussions in New Delhi.

Sources say Shivakumar, despite several visits to the national capital in recent months, had struggled to gain an audience with Rahul Gandhi to discuss the reported arrangement under which he was expected to take over as CM midway through the govt's tenure in Karnataka. It is said Rahul, who had backed Siddaramaiah for the post in 2023, was reluctant to revisit the issue.

Sources say Shivakumar then reached out to Priyanka, with whom he developed a close political equation through organisational work and pan-India election-related assignments. Priyanka is learnt to have persuaded both Rahul and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi to consider Shivakumar's claim.

Sources say Sonia has all along been sympathetic towards Shivakumar because of his loyalty to the Gandhi family and his contributions to the party. Shivakumar has also served as a troubleshooter for party functionaries in several states.

Political proximity between Priyanka and Shivakumar reportedly strengthened during recent election-related tours. Earlier this year, they both visited Kamakhya Temple in Assam. Shivakumar described the visit as a "spiritual interaction" but avoided political details.

The two have also held several meetings in Delhi in recent months amid recurring speculation over a change of CM in Karnataka. One such meeting at Sonia's residence in July last year triggered intense speculation within Congress circles over Shivakumar's future role in the state.

Siddaramaiah clears caste survey hurdle

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FINAL ACT: CM Siddaramaiah with the caste census report

Bengaluru: In a politically significant move, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes submitted its long-delayed socio educational survey report, popularly known as the caste census, to the govt after a nudge from chief minister Siddaramaiah.

Commission chairman K Madhusudhan and backward classes welfare minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, handed the report — comprising more than 300 pages in two sealed envelopes — to Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha Thursday.

The move is being seen as a major message from Siddaramaiah, who has faced criticism for not pushing the survey despite crores being spent on the exercise across his two tenures as CM. Critics had alleged successive govts avoided acting on the first report fearing a backlash from Lingayats and Vokkaligas, politically dominant communities. With the revised report now formally submitted, the focus shifts to the next CM and the cabinet, which will have to decide on implementing its recommendations.

Sources say the commission was keen on submitting the report while Siddaramaiah remained CM, and had convened a meeting of all members earlier in the day to finalise the draft. The meeting began around 11.30am.

But Madhusudhan denied any political urgency behind advancing the meeting, insisting it was originally scheduled for Saturday, but was advanced since Friday is a govt holiday and some members had expressed difficulty attending on Saturday.

He refused to disclose details of the findings, only saying, "We have prepared and submitted the report honestly and hope that the govt will accept it soon."

Tangadagi told TOI the govt had accepted the report and would take a decision on implementation at the next cabinet meeting.

The fresh survey was launched across Karnataka on Sept 22, 2025, to document social, economic, educational and political representation of various castes and communities. It has remained one of the most politically sensitive issues in the state.

Misgovernance sparked this crisis: BJP

Times News Network

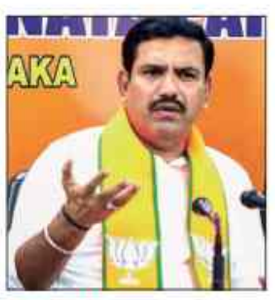
Shivamogga: BJP state president BY Vijayendra Wednesday said that by asking Siddaramaiah to quit as CM, Congress has acknowledged that it failed to provide good governance over the past three years.

Vijayendra said he holds no personal grudge against Siddaramaiah — whom he acknowledged as highly experienced — but pointed out that the CM has burdened the state with Rs 10 lakh crore in debt, pulling Karnataka deep into a financial trap.

He told reporters in Shivamogga, Congress is witnessing its final days both nationally and in Karnataka and asserted that the administration has completely collapsed due to internal infighting and rampant corruption. He said the Karnataka State Maharshi Valmiki Development Corporation and Muda scams were proof of the corruption.

Dismissing recent by-election victories as a false benchmark that could not save the CM's position, Vijayendra predicted that any successor to Siddaramaiah would only be temporary and would inevitably lead mid-term assembly elections.

While claiming Siddaramaiah will not step down easily, he emphasised that the high command's decision makes his resignation unavoidable, adding that BJP will leverage its organisational strength and appeal to people unitedly to give it another chance.



OPPN TAKE: File picture of state BJP president BY Vijayendra

On saffron party affairs, Vijayendra praised BJP chief Nitin Nabin for his deep grassroots organisational meetings with workers and elected representatives, which he said would significantly strengthen the party nationwide.

He also highlighted the severe distress of local farmers following pre-monsoon disasters, noting that 11 lakh arecanut trees have collapsed in Shivamogga district alone. He accused the state govt and its ministers of absolute negligence regarding this crisis and blamed their mismanagement for the current fertiliser shortages, condemning their attempts to shift the blame to the Centre. He said BJP will launch protests on these issues.

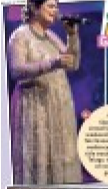
WHAT'S HOT

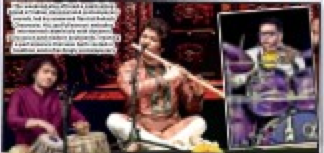
A tribute to Karnataka's rich legacy

Tourist visa violations put influencers under scanner in Bali

GALLERY

Bengaluru's concert scene peaked over the weekend





LEISURE

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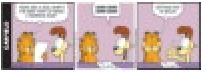
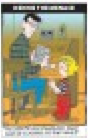
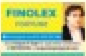


EVENTS





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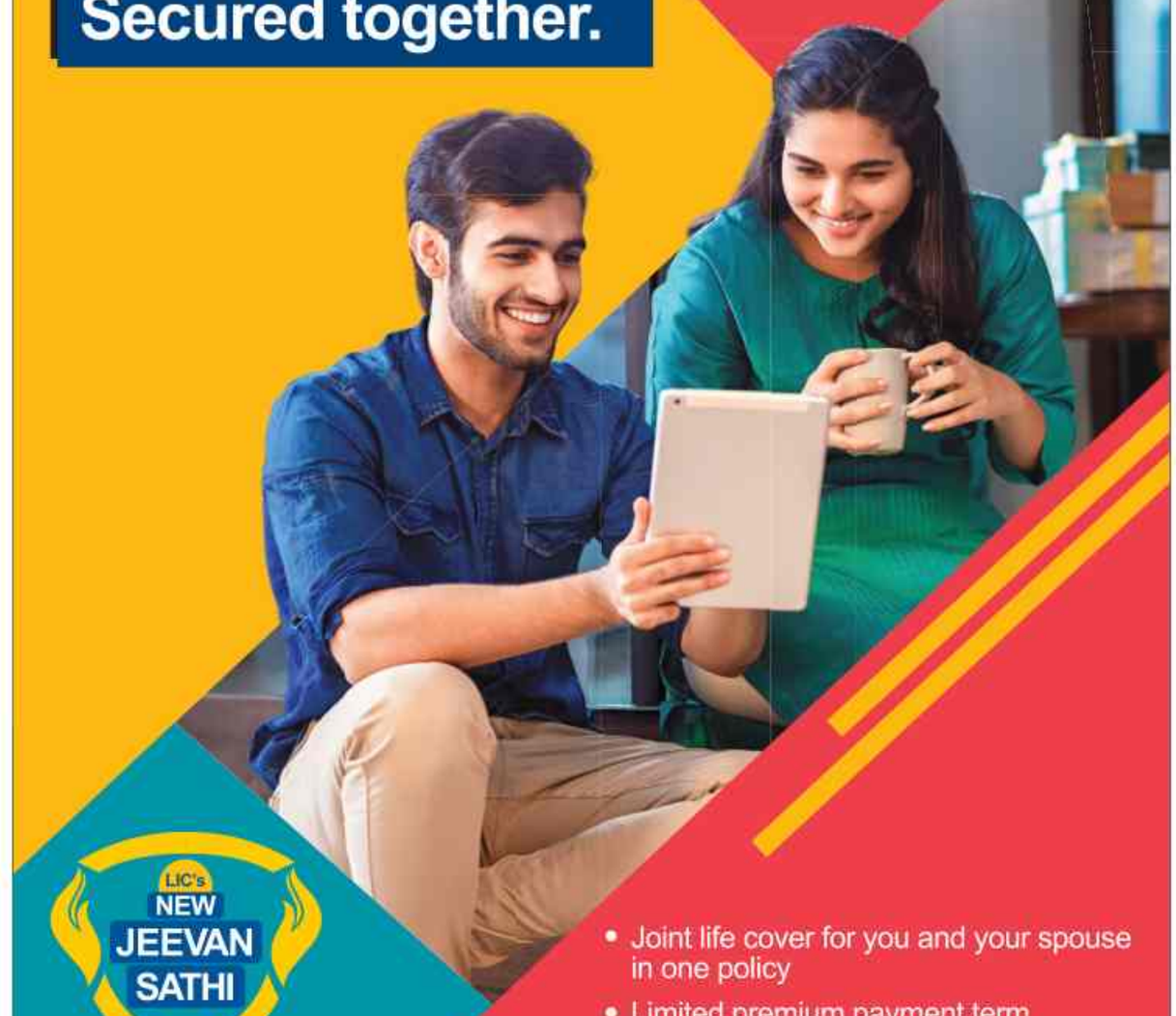

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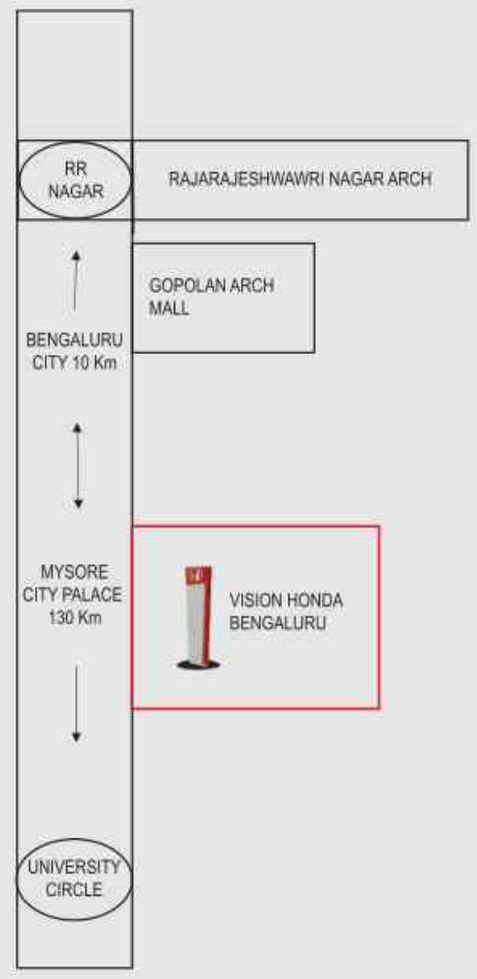

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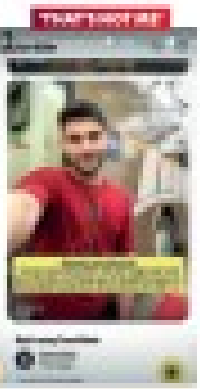
UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Drake beats Michael Jackson's Billboard record

Chunari Chunari row: Music, lokal mainstains it holds the lawful rights to the song

Fake names, real photos: Behram on identity misuse in the digital age



'Eid is always about daawat and celebration'

'I genuinely want to do some charity this year'

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Shop, stroll, smile: Screens offer ideas to kill time at KIA

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Airport flight information screens are usually cluttered with messages — On Time, Delayed, Boarding — to help waiting passengers track their flights. However, Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 2 display screens in the departure lounge are directing passengers to "Snack before you fly", "Explore the art gallery" and "Shop, stroll, smile!" — a move that has left many amused and some impressed by the city's trademark blend of functionality and quirkiness.

Over the past few weeks, passengers in Terminal 2 noticed the flight information display system (FIDS) carrying these unconventional prompts instead of routine updates before departure. The messages, in English and Kannada, which first appeared intermittently in late March, were fully deployed by the early weeks of May.

According to a Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) spokesperson, the idea was to change how passengers use their waiting time at the airport. "Passengers often arrive well ahead of departure, and these prompts were introduced as subtle nudges to explore the terminal's wider offerings, including lounges, cafés, retail, art and cultural experiences, rather than viewing the airport purely as a transit space," the spokesperson said. "This also takes the stress away from passengers by allowing them to experience the airport instead of just sitting and waiting for boarding announcements and not moving from near the departure gate for fear of missing announcements. This ensures the passengers are empowered and are being given an idea of what they can do before boarding their flight."

TOI

SOME PHRASES BEING USED

- Explore the art gallery
- Snack before you fly
- Shop, stroll, smile!
- Relax at the lounge
- Time for a coffee break
- Flavours before flight

PICK-UP LINES: These prompts act as subtle nudges to explore lounges, cafés, retail, art and cultural experiences at KIA's Terminal 2

The system is programmed to show these messages only during the early pre-departure window — when there are more than 90 minutes left for domestic flights and over 120 minutes for international departures. As the flight time gets closer, the display switches back to conventional updates of security check, boarding and on time.

"Just Bengaluru airport doing Bengaluru things. Instead of just telling you your gate is 6 minutes away, Namma Bengaluru airport tells you exactly how to spend those minutes. Coffee, snacks or art? Deciding that is the hardest part of the journey now," said Lalith, an X user.

Shreyansh, another X user, said, "That's actually brilliant UX design – turning waiting time anxiety into discovery time instead of just stressing people out about the walk."

Night of terror: 3 arrested for assault, vandalism spree

Bengaluru: Three men have been arrested by VV Puram police for going on the rampage in the early hours, threatening and assaulting passers-by with wooden logs and smashing parked two-wheelers.

The incident happened on Magadi Venkatappa Road on May 20. CCTV footage capturing their acts went viral, prompting police to register a suo motu case and arrest the trio identified as Abhishek, 26, Puneeth, 25, and Umesh, 25.

It all started with Abhishek, who allegedly assaulted his sister-in-law for lodging a complaint against his brother over domestic violence a month ago. Abhishek's brother left the house after the complaint. Abhishek blamed her for the issues and insisted on her leaving the house. She later went to her maternal home out of fear. Abhishek and his friends, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, went near her residence and created a ruckus on the road. They stopped a passer-by, Vignesh, around 4am, assaulted him with a wooden log and allegedly threatened to kill him.

They later damaged multiple two-wheelers parked outside a residence, causing property damage and leaving residents terrified.

The trio was arrested on May 23. Abhishek's sister-in-law also filed a complaint alleging assault. TNN

Peenya under GBA Act as govt rolls back industrial hub plan

E-City Model Fails To Materialise

Suchith.Kidiyoor @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Barely a year after granting 'industrial township' status to Peenya Industrial Area by declaring it a special investment region, state govt has withdrawn the decision, dealing a blow to plans for a separate governance model for the key industrial hub.

In a notification issued Tuesday, the urban development department said the proposal announced earlier by commerce and industries department to notify Peenya as a special investment region and transfer its administration to Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) cannot be implemented.

The govt stated that Peenya Industrial Area already falls within the jurisdiction of corporation limits. Hence, the area cannot be brought under KIADB or any other authority by taking it out of the civic administration framework.

The rollback is seen as a setback to efforts aimed at creating a dedicated industrial township for one of Asia's largest industrial clusters, which continues to face major civic infrastructure issues, including poor roads, drainage and waste management problems.

The notification stated apart from Peenya, 17 other special investment regions announced by the industries department will continue to be governed under Greater Bengaluru Governance Act-2024, Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act-1976, and Karnataka Municipalities Act-1964.

File photo

BIG BLOW: Industrialists complain of neglected infrastructure despite the economic importance of Peenya's industrial hub

> The govt's decision to declare Peenya as a special investment region had brought no change on the ground for industrial units in the area. The govt had promised formation of a 15-member committee, but industrial units were given representation only through two members while the majority were govt officials. Even that committee was never formed
> **Shiva Kumar R** | FORMER PRESIDENT, PEENYA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

The respective local bodies and municipal corporations will continue to exercise administrative powers in these areas, including levy and collection of property taxes and other civic responsibilities.

In June 2025, govt issued a notification declaring Peenya's 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th phase industrial areas, spread across 1,461.5 acres, as a special investment region. The notification had also appointed KIADB as the nodal agency to administer the region and collect taxes.

Under the proposed model, 70% of the revenue generated through taxes was to be utilised for improving civic infrastructure within the industrial area, while the remaining 30% was to be shared with the city corporation under whose jurisdiction Peenya falls.

Peenya Industrial Area houses more than 13,500 industrial units, provides employment to over 14 lakh people and these units contribute over Rs 8,500 crore in taxes to the govt annually.

Shiva Kumar R, former president of Peenya Industries' Association, said the govt's decision to declare Peenya as a special investment region had brought no change on the ground for industries in the area. "The govt had promised formation of a 15-member committee, but industries were given representation only through two members while the majority were govt officials. Even that committee was never formed," he said.

He alleged that though KIADB has been collecting taxes, there is no clarity on how the funds are being utilised or any concrete plan for infrastructure improvement. Kumar pointed out that property records continue to remain a major issue in the industrial area. "Khatas were originally issued by the erstwhile BBMP. Over the years, several original plot owners have sold portions of their properties and multiple industrial units are now functioning within a single plot. KIADB has failed to address issues related to property identification numbers and ownership records," he said.

Criticising the poor condition of roads in the industrial hub, he said infrastructure remains neglected despite its economic importance. "Peenya industries are located close to the national highway, but even village roads are in better condition than roads here," he claimed.

There was hope for an industrial township authority on the lines of Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA), but that model never materialised. On the latest proposal to bring Peenya under the Greater Bengaluru Authority framework, Shiva Kumar said industry representatives are yet to receive clarity from the govt.

Patients shifted as fire breaks out in hospital

Bengaluru: Around 15 patients admitted to Aveksha Hospital at Singapura on MS Palya Road in north Bengaluru were shifted soon after staff noticed a fire in the building around 2.30am Wednesday.

The blaze broke out in the electric shaft in the basement of the four-storey building. There were around 30 staff members, including an electrician, working at night. They noticed thick smoke spreading to the upper floors and realised there was a fire in the building, police said.

The staff immediately started shifting the patients. After alerting fire and emergency services, some staff members and the electrician went to the basement and tried to douse the flames. Vidyaranyapura police said there were no casualties. Cause is yet to be ascertained. TNN

Tight security for Bakrid

Bengaluru: With Bakrid celebrations on Thursday, police stepped up security across the city, especially in areas where sheep are sold for the festival. Cops issued a stern warning against moral policing and said action will be taken against anyone trying to disturb communal harmony.

Vendors at Matadahalli, RT Nagar, said police deployment is noticeably higher compared to previous years. Apart from monitoring the crowd, the personnel are ensuring vendors do not encroach upon roads and obstruct vehicular movement.

Similar security arrangements have been made in Pulikeshinagar, Chamarajpet and other sensitive areas. TNN

NO ENTRY FOR AUTOS ON MG RD STRETCH

Chethan Shivakumar

CURBS ON MOVEMENT: Traffic restrictions and diversions are causing inconvenience to commuters as autorickshaws have been barred from entering MG Road from Anil Kumble Circle towards the Metro station, while vehicular movement on Kamaraj Road has been partially restricted for 60 days due to demolition of an old stone culvert and construction of a new concrete one by GBA. Traffic police placed banners and made continuous public announcements at key junctions Wednesday to regulate movement and manage congestion in the central business district

HC sets aside suspension of health dept engineer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court set aside the suspension order of an executive engineer, health and family welfare department, in relation to

WALL COLLAPSE AT BOWRING HOSP

the April 29 Bowring Hospital compound wall collapse incident wherein at least seven people lost their lives.

A vacation division bench of Justices Suraj Govindaraj and K Manmadha Rao passed this order.

On May 1, the govt placed MB Nagaraj under suspension by passing an order under Rule 10(1)(d) of Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957, citing dereliction of duty.

He challenged the order before Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal. However, on May 6, the tribunal refused to grant a stay, forcing Nagaraj to approach the high court.

He claimed the rule invoked against him required "prima facie evidence of gross dereliction of duty" and the same is lacking in his case. After perusing Rule 10(1)(d) of CCA Rules, the division bench pointed out that it states there has to be prima facie evidence 'against him'. In the present case, the collapse of the wall by itself does not constitute prima facie evidence of gross dereliction against the petitioner. It is merely evidence of the wall having collapsed, which, though tragic, cannot at present be attributed to the petitioner as an act of gross dereliction, let alone be treated as prima facie evidence of such negligence, the bench added.

"Two committees have been appointed. It is for the committees to submit their report, indicating if there is a dereliction of duty and if that be so, the respondents would be free to exercise their powers under Rule 10(1)(d) of CCA Rules," the bench further said.

Visit to ex-lover's house costs painter his life

Bengaluru: A 27-year-old man allegedly died after being brutally assaulted by the husband and relatives of his former lover in Shyamanna Garden, leading to Byatarayanapura police registering a murder case.

The deceased, Mohammed Kashif, was a resident of Beedi Colony in Ramanagara district and a painter by profession. He was in love with a woman a few years ago, but they later separated due to unknown reasons. Around four years ago, the woman married Mohammed Akbar, a resident of Shyamanna Garden, and lives there with her husband and his family.

According to a complaint filed by Kashif's brother, Mohammed Imran, the woman allegedly contacted Kashif over phone on May 25 and asked him to meet her at her residence. Kashif visited the house in the evening.

While they were talking, the woman's husband, his relatives, and friends allegedly noticed them and confronted Kashif. Imran alleged that the group brutally assaulted Kashif and later forced him to sign on a blank sheet of paper while warning him not to contact the woman again. Kashif was then taken to a private hospital in Bapujinagar for first aid. Later, family members took him home.

However, his condition worsened overnight as he complained of severe pain and breathing difficulties. Early on May 26, the family rushed him to a private hospital, where doctors advised them to shift him to Ramanagara Govt Hospital, but doctors there declared him brought dead.

Police are awaiting the post-mortem report. TNN

Couple held for stealing friend's gold from their cupboard locker

Bengaluru: A couple from BEML Layout in Rajarajeshwari Nagar was arrested on charges of stealing gold ornaments and cash belonging to their friend, who was staying at their house since 2019. Police recovered 232 grams of ornaments worth Rs 35 lakh.

The accused are Ganesh, 52, and Sharmila, 50. Police said the victim, Padmaja Rao, suffers from vision problems. Her husband left her many years ago, after which she stayed with her daughter before shifting to her friend Sharmila's house. In June 2024, Padmaja withdrew her valuables, including gold ornaments weighing 570 grams and Rs 49.5 lakh in cash, from a bank locker and kept them in a cupboard at Sharmila's house.

Trouble began when Padmaja found the locker key missing. When she asked Sharmila to arrange for a locksmith, the couple started dilly-dallying. A suspicious Padmaja then contacted a locksmith herself and opened the locker, only to find the gold ornaments and cash had disappeared.

When confronted, the couple admitted to using the cash for their business needs and pawning the gold ornaments at jewellery shops. Following Padmaja's complaint on May 6, Rajarajeshwarinagar police registered a case and arrested the couple on May 7. TNN

E-counselling must for sub-registrars' transfer

Santoshkumar.B @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The govt Wednesday issued a notification mandating a digital counselling system for transfers in the stamps and registration department, aiming to curb lobbying, bribery and undue influence in securing prime postings, particularly in high-value jurisdictions such as Bengaluru.

The department made a few changes in the final notification after Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Officials' Association submitted a 7-page objection to the draft notification published on April 27. The association had sought exemption for office-bearers of recognised govt employees' associations from the strict application of transfer rules during their tenure, arguing that frequent transfers could hamper their organisational responsibilities. It had demanded

ANTI-BRIBERY PUSH

exemption from compulsory transfers for employees with less than one year of service remaining before retirement, citing family responsibilities, medical treatment, children's education, care of elderly parents.

The govt accepted some of the demands and excluded office-bearers of recognised govt employees' associations and employees nearing retirement from compulsory transfer provisions. It also approved a separate seniority list for senior sub-registrars and sub-registrars.

Under Karnataka Civil Services (Counselling Based Transfers in Stamps and Registration Department) Rules-2026, transfers of senior sub-registrars, sub-registrars, first division assistants and certain other officials will be carried out only through digital counselling.

According to the notification, compulsory premature transfers will be allowed in cases involving criminal complaints, Lokayukta cases, departmental inquiries or serious allegations, and such officers will be posted only to non-executive or Zone C offices. The rules prescribe a minimum service period of two years for district registrars, senior sub-registrars and sub-registrars in one posting, while FDAs must complete four years in one office before becoming eligible for transfer.

Govt divided registration offices into Zone A, B and C categories. Zone A includes sub-registrar offices located within Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority limits and municipal corporation areas; Zone B covers taluk-level offices and Zone-C non-executive and special category offices.

CET results only after agri practical retest on June 1

Bengaluru: The retest of agricultural and veterinary medical practical examination will be held at Chitradurga's Hiriyur centre on June 1. CET results will be announced after that.

This decision was taken as Keladi Shivappa Nayaka Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga, has decided to reconduct agricultural practical examination for the candidates of Hiriyur centre following allegations of irregularities.

"In all, 24,250 people applied for agricultural practical examination, and CET results will be announced only after the marks of those who appeared for the practical exam are released by the university," KEA said in a press release. Candidates can get information about counselling and registration options. If possible, they can participate in CET seat-allocation awareness programme being held in govt engineering/medical colleges till May 30. TNN

Experts: Fortified rice yet to gain ground in open market due to low public awareness

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Fortified rice, distributed through the public distribution system (PDS), is yet to gain wide acceptance in the open market due to low consumer awareness and limited efforts by manufacturers.

Fortified rice, according to experts, may be key to tackling widespread nutrient deficiencies in India. Stressing the need to expand its availability beyond the public distribution system, experts at a workshop on 'Advancing fortified rice in Karnataka', highlighted that fortified grains are still uncommon across the state.

Health and family welfare minister Dinesh Gundu Rao Wednesday said the govt is open to promoting fortified foods. "Grains like rice and wheat are increasingly being discouraged for being high-carb. Fortification is a way to ensure these grains remain healthy as they are part of our staple food and culture," the minister said.

Nutrition experts highlighted the scale of micronutrient deficiencies in India. Usharani Dandamudi, a scientist at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI Mysuru), said iron, Vitamin B12 and folic acid deficiencies are widespread in India and contribute to issues such as low birth weight, infant mortality and rising pre-diabetes cases.

"Most water-soluble vitamins such as B1, B2, B3, B6 and minerals like zinc can be fortified in rice," she said, adding that polishing removes much of rice's nutritional value. While brown rice retains nutrients, ensuring consumers drop their preference for polished rice remains difficult because of differences in taste and cooking properties, she noted.

Jambulingappa G Hosmani, director of fortified rice brand, Panchamrutha, said entrepreneurs can set up fortified rice kernel (FRK) manufacturing units to supply rice mills. Launching Panchamrutha Deluxe fortified rice with nine essential vitamins and minerals, he said producing fortified rice "is not rocket science" and requires limited space along with technical know-how and compliance with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms.

According to Abhishek Shukla of Millers for Nutrition (India), the country produces around 109 million metric tonnes of rice annually, of which nearly 35 million metric tonnes is currently being fortified for distribution through the PDS.

However, he noted malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies are prevalent even among urban populations.

How is the rice variety processed

Fortified rice is produced using extrusion technology, in which rice flour is blended with a micronutrient premix containing vitamins and minerals to create fortified rice kernels. These kernels are manufactured in an extruder machine using a screw barrel mechanism and are later blended with regular rice in a 1:100 ratio.

TOI

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Mother to Charmaine, Rebecca & Siddarth, Louise & Ganesh.

Grandmother to Caroline, Anish, Tarun, Hannah, and Emma.

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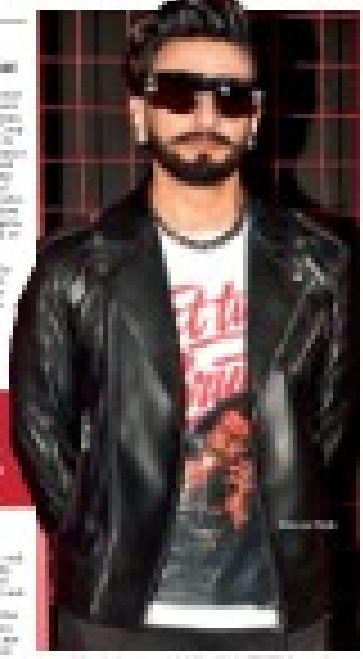
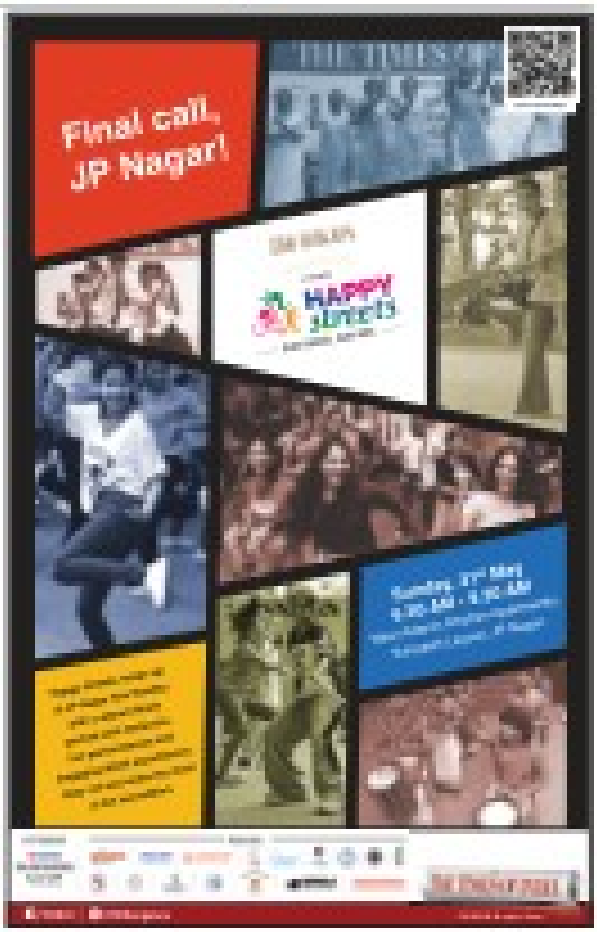
'Imposter syndrome never really leaves artistes'

The fallout between him & Farhan is now evident, but nothing is permanent: Source

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Temples Of Goddesses See Footfall Surge Due To Free Travel

Shakti powers temple tourism, muzrai revenue

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Bengaluru: The road to muzrai temples in Karnataka runs through Shakti scheme, one of the flagship guarantee schemes of Congress govt that allows women to travel on no-frills KSRTC buses free.

What was initially launched as free bus travel has slowly taken shades of temple tourism, with women passengers particularly visiting temples of goddesses in large numbers. Along the way, revenues of Karnataka's top 15 temples have seen a significant uptick. The temples where cash registers are ringing include Bengaluru's Banashankari Temple and Ghati Subramanya Temple. For 2025-26, temple revenues rose from Rs 613.5 crore to Rs 666.2 crore — an 8.6% increase over the previous financial year. Sri Kukke Subrahmanya Temple retained the top position among Karnataka's highest revenue-generating temples, with collections increasing from Rs 155.9 crore to Rs 167.8 crore.

Transport and muzrai minister Ramalinga Reddy conceded that Shakti scheme, introduced three years ago, has contributed significantly to the growth of pilgrimage tourism across Karnataka. "When women travel, they are often accompanied by family members. State-run road transport corporations operate extensive services to temple towns across Karnataka," he added.

On the flip side, a few major shrines reported a decline in revenues. Collections at Male Mahadeshwara Temple in Chamarajanagar district dropped from Rs 123.6 crore to Rs 117.6 crore. Similarly, Shrikanteshwara Temple in Nanjangud saw revenues decline from Rs 36.1 crore to Rs 28.9 crore, while Shri Siddhalingeshwara Temple near Kunigal recorded a fall from Rs 29.8 crore to Rs 27.7 crore.

Reddy said the govt had granted greater autonomy to the administration of A-category temples to improve basic amenities and streamline temple management. "This has helped improve pilgrim inflow. The revenue generated is utilised for the respective temples. Contributions to other temples under muzrai department are permitted only after govt approval," the minister said.

A KSRTC official said occupancy on bus routes connecting major temple towns has witnessed considerable growth after the introduction of Shakti scheme.

"KSRTC operates a fleet of 8,900 buses, of which more than 7,000 ordinary services provide free travel facilities under Shakti scheme. These buses are operated extensively on routes connecting important temple towns across the state. Besides, additional services are operated during festive seasons and school vacations to cater to the increased rush of pilgrims and tourists," the official said.

SPIRITUAL WINDFALL

Temple	2024-25	2025-26
Kollur Mookambika, **Udupi**	71.9	84
Chamundeshwari, **Mysuru**	50.6	79.6
Durgaparameshwari Kateel, **DK**	35.1	42.4
Renuka Yellamma, **Belagavi**	29.9	31.3
Huligemma Devi, **Koppal**	17.3	19.3
Durgaparameshwari, **Mandarti**	16.5	18.3
Banashankari, **Bengaluru**	11.8	13

Source: Muzrai dept. All figures in rupees (crore)

File photo

For 2025-26, earnings rose from Rs 613.5 crore to Rs 666.2 crore — an 8.6% hike over the previous financial year. Sri Kukke Subrahmanya Temple retained the top position with collections increasing from Rs 155.9 crore to Rs 167.8 crore

Privatisation debate puts Escoms' performance under spotlight

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Bengaluru: Amid growing debate over the possible privatisation of electricity distribution in Karnataka after Tata Power sought a distribution licence, energy experts and employees' unions have traded sharp arguments over the performance of state-run Escoms.

Experts and consumer groups have flagged shortcomings in the existing system, including the delay in implementing Solar Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs mandated under Electricity Amendment Rules, withdrawal of incentives for high-tension (HT) consumers, refusal to introduce prepaid meters despite legal backing, and lack of transparency in security deposit interest calculations. Experts have also criticised Escoms for failing to comply with long-pending Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) directions on cost-of-supply based tariff determination, arguing that inefficiencies and transmission losses continue to burden consumers through higher tariffs.

The Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Unions fears that private operators may focus only on lucrative urban markets while neglecting rural areas and welfare schemes such as Gruha Jyothi and free power for farmers. Employee unions have also warned that privatisation could threaten the livelihood of thousands of permanent, contractual and outsourced workers.

EXPERTS POINT TO SHORTCOMINGS IN SYSTEM

1 DENIAL OF SOLAR ToD TARIFF: Despite the Electricity Amendment Rules-2023 mandating implementation of ToD tariff for industrial consumers above 10 kW from April 1, 2024, and for other consumers from April 1, 2025, Escoms are yet to roll out the system. Consumer and industry bodies have been seeking implementation, stating ToD tariffs would help consumers reduce electricity tariff by 10-20% by shifting consumption to daytime solar hours when power availability is higher and cheaper.

2 WITHDRAWAL OF INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR HT CONSUMERS: KERC in its successive orders had approved a rebate of Re 1 per kWh for units consumed in excess of base consumption between 10am and 6pm, and likewise Rs 2 per unit to high-tension (HT) consumers for additional consumption between 10pm and 6am to encourage off-peak usage. The withdrawal of this incentive has drawn criticism from industries that depended on subsidised night-time power.

3 REFUSAL TO INSTALL PREPAID METERS: Consumers seeking exemption from security deposits demanded installation of prepaid electricity meters. However, Escoms declined implementation citing non-availability of meters. This is despite the high court's ruling in the Vijayaa Steels vs Bescom case, which held that consumers opting for prepaid meters need not furnish security deposits as per provisions of the Electricity Act-2003.

4 LACK OF CLARITY ON SECURITY DEPOSIT INTEREST: Under the KERC regulations, Escoms are authorised to collect security deposits from consumers in two forms--meter security deposit and two-month average consumption charges. These deposits carry an obligation on Escoms to pay annual interest to consumers. However, consumers have consistently raised concerns about lack of transparency in the computation of the applicable interest rate and the manner in which the credited amount is adjusted in bills. The practice of raising frequent demands for additional security deposit through monthly bills — without first accounting for the excess deposits already lying with Escoms — has compounded consumer confusion and eroded confidence in the fairness of the process.

5 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COST OF SUPPLY CHARGE: KERC in its 2000 tariff order had indicated the method of arriving at cost of service by functionalising assets into three categories - demand, energy and consumer-related expenses. However, even after 26 years, the Escoms have failed to comply with the direction which is affecting the tariffs determined every year.

WHY EMPLOYEES' UNIONS OPPOSE PRIVATISATION

1 CONCERNS OVER HANDING PUBLIC INFRA TO PRIVATE PLAYERS: Employee unions argue that Escoms have created massive electricity infrastructure over the years using public funds, including transmission lines, substations and distribution networks. Allowing private companies to utilise these assets for profit-oriented operations, they say, would go against public interest and consumer welfare.

2 PROFIT-DRIVEN MODEL MAY NEGLECT RURAL AREAS: According to the Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Unions, private companies focus on high-revenue urban pockets rather than service delivery. They warn that privatisation could lead to neglect of rural distribution networks, eventually weakening electricity infrastructure and services in villages.

3 THREAT TO WELFARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHEMES: The federation contends that govt welfare schemes such as free power for irrigation pump sets, Gruha Jyothi, Bhagya Jyothi and Kutira Jyothi are aimed at supporting poor and marginalised sections. They allege that private players may not be willing to sustain such subsidised social welfare initiatives.

4 FEAR OF HIGHER TARIFFS UNDER PRIVATE OPERATORS: Escom employees claim that despite rising generation and transmission costs, state-run Escoms have maintained comparatively lower tariffs. They allege that private firms could impose higher charges through mechanisms such as smart meters, thereby increasing the burden on poor and middle-class consumers.

5 CONCERNS OVER EMPLOYEE LIVELIHOOD AND VACANCIES: The federation stated that over 35,000 posts remain vacant across electricity supply companies and existing employees are working overtime to maintain uninterrupted services. They argue that allowing private players into the sector at this stage could threaten the livelihood of permanent, contractual and outsourced employees.

Man goes missing after landing at KIA from Abu Dhabi

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 38-year-old man from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, has gone missing after landing from Abu Dhabi at the city's Kempegowda International Airport on May 22. , Abbas S has been working in Abu Dhabi as a car alignment worker for the last 15 years.

Abbas used to regularly visit his hometown and return to Abu Dhabi after spending time with family and friends. He was under mental stress for the last 8-10 days and had informed his family that he would return home soon, according to a police complaint filed by his father, Shahul Ameed I.

Abbas boarded a flight from Abu Dhabi and landed at KIA around 6.05am on May 22. He called and informed his wife that he had missed his connecting flight to Coimbatore and would be delayed. He also told her that his mobile phone battery was running low. Since then, his phone has remained switched off, and he has not contacted the family again.

After searching for him in vain, the man's family approached KIA police and filed a missing-person complaint.

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METRO WRAP

Watch cheetahs at BBP from June 4

Four cheetahs brought from South Africa to Bengaluru as part of a wildlife exchange programme will be opened for public viewing at Bannerughatta Biological Park from June 4, forest minister Eshwar Khandre said. After landing in the city on April 18, the cheetahs were kept under quarantine and closely monitored to help them acclimatise to Bengaluru's climate and surroundings. Officials said the animals were housed separately during the observation period, with regular health checks conducted by zoo authorities and veterinarians. Following confirmation that all four cheetahs are healthy, the minister directed officials to shift them to a specially prepared enclosure at Bannerughatta zoo for visitors.

Lightning kills B'luru techie

A techie in Bengaluru, who hails from Kodagu, was killed after being struck by lightning in Yelwal near Mysuru Monday evening. **Hosoklu Roshan Balakrishna**, his wife and son stopped near Yelwal to visit their property. When he went to pluck mangoes, he was struck by lightning and collapsed on the spot. Roshan was involved in agricultural activities, including introducing and marketing modern equipment. Another person who was with him escaped unhurt.

Ugandan tests -ve for Ebola

The sample of a 28-year-old Ugandan woman, who was isolated at Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Indiranagar on suspicion of having Ebola, has tested negative for the disease, health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said Wednesday.. The sample was sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV) for testing. The woman had arrived in Bengaluru on May 23.

Self-processing waste bins

GBA has partnered with clean-technology startup Neo San to deploy self-processing smart bins in the city to manage sanitary and biomedical waste at the point of generation. Named Neo-X, the bins include real-time IoT monitoring to track processing cycles and quantities treated, generating data intended to support urban planning. As part of Safe Dispose Bengaluru, on-site thermal waste-processing units will be set up at govt and private institutions, including hospitals, schools, colleges, women's hostels and other facilities that generate sanitary pads, bandages, soiled tissues and clinical consumables.

KSRTC passes for students

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation said applications for student bus passes for 2026-27 will open on May 29 through Seva Sindhu portal. Passes will be issued from June 1 at designated counters across the state. Students can apply online free of cost through Seva Sindhu website or submit applications at Karnataka-One, Grama-One and Bangalore-One centres by paying Rs 30 service charge. KSRTC said girls can continue to avail free travel under Shakti scheme. However, those travelling between Karnataka and neighbouring states for education must obtain concessional student bus passes.

Power swap? Surjewala in city to oversee transition process

▶Continued from page 1

With June 8 being the last date for filing Rajya Sabha nominations, Congress party leadership is expected to continue persuading him.

Before submitting his resignation, Siddaramaiah will host a breakfast for cabinet colleagues Thursday morning and later address a press conference. Shivakumar, who returned to Bengaluru late Wednesday, is expected to attend the breakfast.

The leadership transition gathered pace after marathon discussions in Delhi on Wednesday involving Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Siddaramaiah.

Sources said the Shivakumar camp intensified pressure for a leadership change, prompting the high command to explore a national role for Siddaramaiah.

The CM remained guarded Wednesday when asked about the developments. "I will speak everything tomorrow (Thursday)," Siddaramaiah said after paying floral tributes to Jawaharlal Nehru at Vidhana Soudha on the former prime minister's death anniversary.

Home minister G Parameshwara and PWD minister Satish Jarkiholi said clarity will emerge only after an official announcement.

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala arrived in Bengaluru Wednesday evening to oversee the transition process. Surjewala said Congress had not yet called a legislature party meeting and that "no other decision has been taken yet."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Veenith S. Gadad, S/o Shailesh Gadad, R/o A1601 Keya Spring, Arekere, Bangalore 560076, do hereby declare that Veenith Gadad and Veenith S Gadad both are same and one identical person, vide affidavit no. IN-KA70591861346353Y sworn before the notary public at Bangalore on 26/05/2026.

I, Vinita Raghavendra Rao, W/O; Raghavendra Rao Balaram Rao Kulkarni, R/O :NO302 ,A Manpho Pavilion, BDA Rd, Near Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta RD,-560076. Have changed my name as Vinita Krishnaji Tapaskar

I, Mohammed Sardar H s/o Shaik Hyder r/o ward no.15, tippunagar chintamani. have changed my name to Sardar.

I, Sujatha G D W/o V Sreenivasa Murthy, residing at No. 14, Anugraha, 9th Cross, Varma Layout, Bhuvaneswari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Hebbal, B'lore-560024, do hereby solemnly declare that my maiden name is Sujatha G D & in the Passport Name has entered as Sujatha Murthy. Both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I shall be called my name as SUJATHA G D vide Affidavit dated 23.05.2026, sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi K, B'luru.

I, Sakshi Kulkarni, D/O; Raghavendra Rao Balaram Rao Kulkarni, R/O :NO302, A Manpho Pavilion, BDA RD, Near Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta RD,-560076. Have changed my name as Sakshi Raghavendra Rao Kulkarni

I, Raghavendra Rao Balaram Rao, S/O; Balaram Rao Kulkarni, R/O : NO302, A Manpho Pavilion, BDA RD, Near Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Rd,-560076.Have changed my name as Raghavendra Rao Balaram Rao Kulkarni

I Ruchi (old name), W/o Deep Borsaniya, R/o 59/2, Rainbow Trade Links, Anjanapura 11th Block, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru, 560083. Changed My Name From Ruchi To Ruchi Borsaniya vide affidavit Date 26.05.2026 sworn before notary L.PUTTARAJU at Bengaluru Henceforth, I shall Be Known As Ruchi Borsaniya For All purpose

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sri. Vikram Swamy, Smt. Rathi Krishnan, Smt. Indu Krishnan, Sri. Gautham Krishnan, Sri. Ajit Nilakantan, Smt. Lakshmi Nilakantan, Smt. Jaya Nilakantan, and Smt. Aruna Nilakantan have represented to my client that they are the lawful owners of the schedule property mentioned below and my client is negotiating to purchase the schedule property together with the building mentioned in the schedule below.
Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest in respect of the schedule property, are hereby requested to file their claims to the undersigned with the documentary proof within 10 days from this date, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such claim exists.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No. 32/1, EPID No. 77-107-32/1 and Property bearing No. 32/2, EPID No. 77-107-32/2 totally measuring 1737.46 sq.mtrs or 18702 sq.ft along with building known as "Crescent Towers" comprising of ground floor measuring 612.9736 sq.mtrs or 6598.0478 sq.ft plus first to fourth floors each measuring 836.127 sq.mtrs or 9000. 0710 sq.ft situated on Crescent Road, Bangalore -560001 and bounded on the on East by: Mallige Hospital, on that side 62.57 meters or 205.3 feet, West by: Gold finch Hotels Private limited, on that side 61.93 meters or 203.2 feet, North by: Private Property, on that side 12.14 meters or 39.10 feet, South by: Crescent Road, on that side 45.95 meters or 150. 9 feet.
Date: 27.05.2026 Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- S.V. SRINIVAS, Advocate
M/s. CHALAPATHY AND SRINIVAS,
No. 21/22, 2nd and 3rd floor, Krishna Towers,
3rd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.
Mob: 98806 33448, Email ID: candsadvocates@gmail.com

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CELEBRATING INDIA'S GREEN GUARDIANS

This year's awards honoured individuals, institutions and companies driving climate action and community resilience across the country

Pallavi.Chakravorty@timesofindia.com

The 13th edition of the JSW–ToI Earth Care Awards, held recently in Mumbai, celebrated the idea of sustainability becoming a way of life, recognising institutions, companies and grassroot organisations working towards a greener future across India. The event brought together environmental leaders, policymakers, innovators and changemakers, in a hall packed with "climate warriors."

The awards highlighted climate initiatives focused on ecological restoration, water conservation and sustainable resource management. Recognitions included efforts to restore degraded forests, revive natural water sources, improve groundwater recharge and strengthen climate resilience through community participation.

JSW - THE TIMES OF INDIA 13th EARTH CARE AWARDS

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Projects involving rainwater harvesting, watershed restoration and scientific conservation models demonstrated how local action can create long-term environmental impact. The 13th ECA also acknowledged initiatives supporting sustainable forest management and conservation practices while promoting livelihoods and improving access to critical natural resources.

This year's awardees reflected the full spectrum of climate action in practice. The community-led climate action category recognised organisations working at the grassroot level, drawing on local knowledge, building coalitions and demonstrating that solutions to major environmental challenges often emerge from the communities most affected by them. Another category honoured institutions that have embedded sustainability into policy and planning as a core commitment rather than an afterthought.

Introduced in 2008 as the brainchild of JSW Foundation Chairperson Sangita Jindal, the JSW–ToI Earth Care Awards serve as a platform to recognise visionaries and innovators tackling climate change through sustainable solutions and environmental leadership. The initiative aims to honour green innovations from industries, enterprises, NGOs and grassroot organisations across India.

In her keynote address, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide described climate change as both a reality and a challenge that must be addressed collectively. "It's a challenge that needs to be dealt with as an opportunity. And that opportunity would come through the various ideas we propagate, the action we take, and the collaborations we build," she said.

A panel discussion during the event brought together jury chair Ajay Mathur, Soumya Swaminathan, former jury chair R. A. Mashelkar and Rajat Gupta to reflect on the evolution of climate action in India and the growing diversity of people driving change across the country.

They noted that the awards had evolved significantly, bringing together young people, women leaders and grassroot innovators united by a larger purpose. The discussion also focused on the scale and diversity of climate initiatives emerging from across India and stressed the need for stronger institutional and industry participation to support such efforts. Jury members further highlighted the economic opportunities emerging from sustainability, including renewable energy, biofuels and electric mobility, noting that India's sustainability transition is already reshaping industries and creating new avenues for growth.

The second edition of the Young Climate Champions (YCC) Programme was also announced at the awards in collaboration with Earth Day Network India. The initiative that aims to engage young minds through specially designed workshops across colleges in India saw a participation by over 25,000 students through workshops, webinars, presentations, and institutional engagements.

Rinku Pal of ABM College, Jamshedpur; Jhansi Bhupendra Pulla of Pillai College, Mumbai; Arnav Garg of IIT Delhi; Haridra Bora of Miranda House, Delhi; Arpit Kumar of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Udupi; T. K. Devanarayanan of NIT Calicut; and Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology, Chennai were felicitated for outstanding contributions across Air Quality, biodiversity, Clean and Renewable Energy, Environmental Education, water stewardship, waste management, and climate-resilient campus initiatives were the winners of YCC, respectively.

A compelling display of works by sculptor Prashant Pandey was also exhibited at the venue. Made with marble blast stone, cigarette butts, blood slides, industrial scrap, and organic residue, the artworks displayed exquisite craftsmanship with layered cultural and political meaning.

The awards were supported by knowledge partner Think Through Consulting and outreach partners, India Climate Collaborative, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Earth Day Network, and Sustainability Mafia.

WINNERS OF COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ACTION

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)

CHIRAG has pioneered a science-backed, community-led spring shed management model that restores Himalayan water sources, embeds long-term water security governance within rural communities and demonstrates strong scalability potential with a replicable pathway for government adoption.

NIRMAN

NIRMAN has enabled tribal forest-dependent communities to secure legal tenure under the Forest Rights Act and govern their own forest landscapes through sustained ecological restoration and fire prevention. The communities are heavily involved in the sustainable management and regeneration of forests to protect biodiversity and catchment areas.

Himmotthan Society

Himmotthan Society has strengthened holistic livelihood and climate resilience in fragile Himalayan landscapes through an integrated model spanning water security, indigenous artificial glacier systems, fodder development and community-led livestock management.

Installation by Prashant Pandey

GREEN BUSINESS TITAN

The Mahindra Group

The 13th Earth Care Awards recognised the Mahindra Group as the Green Business Titan for its long-standing commitment to sustainability, climate action, and inclusive growth across its diversified businesses. Mahindra Group has committed to achieving carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2040. As of FY25, approximately 30% of the Group's electricity consumption is sourced from renewable energy, with a projection to increase to up to 60% in the coming years. The group is water positive and has planted over 25 million trees through Project Hariyali as part of its biodiversity efforts.

MUMBAI'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE: TURNING CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

Climate change is a reality that must be tackled through ideas, action and collaboration. Even Mumbai, due to its unique vulnerabilities as a dense coastal megacity faces rising sea levels, extreme rainfall, flooding and heat stress. Through the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, BMC is investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, sewage treatment, flood mitigation, green public transport, air-quality monitoring and renewable energy. . But building a climate-resilient Mumbai requires collective responsibility from the government, institutions, businesses and citizens alike.

ASHWINI BHIDE
Municipal Commissioner, BMC

> Climate action must move from choice to collective priority. Whether for individuals or businesses, sustainability is often pursued because people choose to do so — not because it is deeply embedded as a national or institutional priority
>
> **AJAY MATHUR**
> Professor of Practice, School of Public Policy, IIT-Delhi

> Seeing so many individuals and groups across India dedicating themselves to climate action, biodiversity conservation, protection of nature, and the livelihoods of rural communities is commendable. Their work is innovative, meaningful, and deeply inspiring.
>
> **SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN**
> Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and Fellow of the Royal Society

> The climate sector today is not facing a shortage of funding, but a challenge of awareness, coordination, and scale. However, the real need is to channel funding effectively — ensuring the right resources reach the right initiatives at the right time to create meaningful, scalable impact.
>
> **SHLOKA NATH**
> CEO, India Climate Collaborative

> I have experienced firsthand the depth of innovation and ingenuity coming out of India. It reflects a distinct dynamism, grounded in scalability and real-world application. Initiatives like this are key to amplifying the bold ideas and leaders driving real impact.
>
> **JENS NIELSEN**
> Founder & CEO, World Climate Foundation

The climate is changing, and the evidence is impossible to ignore — in our weather patterns, our forests, our oceans, and in the difficult choices' humanity is being forced to make. Yet, amid this crisis, there is hope. Across cities, villages, campuses and communities, ordinary people are stepping forward. Young women and men are not waiting for change; they are becoming the force driving it.

SANGITA JINDAL, Chairperson, JSW Foundation

> Earth Care Awards inspire us to think that while climate change is a global threat, solutions begin with individual courage and collective action. Every young climate champion matters. Because when creativity meets commitment, even the biggest global crises can yield to human ingenuity.
>
> **R.A. MASHELKAR**
> former Jury Chair and former Director General of CSIR

It's a myth that climate action will slow economic growth. On the contrary, emerging evidence shows that a green economy could unlock nearly $4 trillion in investment opportunities for India by 2047, contribute over $1 trillion to the nation's GDP, and generate 48 million new jobs.

ARUNABHA GHOSH
Founder & CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

India's green economy is no longer the future; it's a profitable reality. The renewable energy sector alone has attracted annual investments of $20–25 billion. Emerging sectors such as battery storage and ethanol blending to electric mobility are demonstrating strong commercial viability.

RAJAT GUPTA
Senior Partner, Sustainability Practice, McKinsey & Company

COMMUNICATOR FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Mongabay India

Mongabay India was felicitated under Communicators for Climate Action – Written Journalism and Storytelling for its rigorous, independent environmental journalism that brings India's conservation frontline to diverse audiences. Through open-access articles, features, podcasts, and videos, it makes environmental science accessible and amplifies the voices of communities most affected by ecological change.

WINNERS OF INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION

Gram Panchayat Nanasa

Gram Panchayat Nanasa has initiated a village water security model that combined groundwater recharge with a cultural behavioural innovation to achieve sustained community ownership. The initiatives succeeded due to active public participation and localised water management strategies spearheaded by Sarpanch Rohit Tiwari.

The Office of the Collector, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh

The Office of the Collector, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh received a commendation for district leadership in restoring groundwater through GIS-based hydrological planning, convergence financing and a sustained structural shift toward diversified, climate-resilient agriculture.

WINNER OF WOMAN LEADER IN CLIMATE ACTION

Meera Chandran, Forest First Samithi

Meera Chandran has embodied deeply rooted environmental stewardship in women leadership through a science-backed, community-led restoration model in the Western Ghats that has earned judicial recognition and empowered tribal communities as primary agents of forest recovery.

WINNER OF EMERGING BUSINESS IN CLIMATE ACTION

Minimac Systems

Minimac Systems Has been recognised for developing a proprietary, multi-technology lubricant reconditioning system that addresses a high-volume industrial waste problem with a commercially scalable model and a credible pathway to full MacroCircularity.

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

DELHI COURT ISSUES NOTICE TO HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ON PLEA SEEKING FIR OVER ALLEGED HATE SPEECH

RAHUL GANDHI CITIZENSHIP CASE HEARING DEFERRED AS ALLAHABAD HC WAITS FOR RECALL PLEA DECISION

HACK OF THE DAY — **LET FAMILY MAKE UPI PAYMENTS WITH LIMITS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps parents, senior citizens, students, or household members make controlled UPI payments without handing over full account access

WHAT TO DO: Use UPI Circle in a supported app to delegate payments with limits and controls

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1. **Open** a UPI app that supports UPI Circle
2. **Choose** the UPI Circle or delegated payments option
3. **Add** a trusted family member or secondary user
4. **Set** the monthly limit and approval mode
5. **Review** payments and remove access when not needed

CAREFUL: Delegate only to someone you trust. Limits reduce risk, but not the need to monitor

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

SC: CBSE's 3-language scheme doesn't hit federalism, but will study infra constraints

Parries Request For Stay, Seeks Comprehensive Board Affidavit

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine validity of CBSE's recent policy mandating three languages, two of which must be Indian languages, for Class IX, which parents termed as a sure recipe for chaos and confusion in the absence of trained teachers, required textbooks and denial of choice to students.

Many lawyers, including Mukul Rohatgi, Kapil Sibal and Shraddha Deshmukh, repeatedly requested for stay on the implementation of the policy that is to come into force from July 1. But a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi parried the request and said, "The object (of the three-language policy) can be salutary, but we understand the difficulty faced by students in absence of infrastructural and teaching support."

SC did not agree with the contention that the three-language scheme impinges on federalism, but said it can be examined on the ground of reasonableness in view of infrastructure constraints.

The bench entertained a bunch of petitions — led by the one filed by parents and teachers from the National Capital Region and Chennai — seeking a comprehensive affidavit dealing with all issues flagged by petitioners related to implementation of the policy, and said it would dedicate a day for its adjudication in the second week of July.

"There is a silver lining as there is no examination right now," CJI said, but recognised the importance of pleas of hardship and inconvenience that could be caused to students in the absence of trained teachers and textbooks in Indian languages. SC issued notices to the education ministry, CBSE and NCERT.

The apex court recognised the hardship and inconvenience that could be caused to students in the absence of trained teachers and books in Indian languages and issued notices to the education ministry, CBSE and NCERT

Additional SG Aishwarya Bhati said the policy has been crafted after a lot of deliberations and the court must await the reaction of students after its implementation before adjudicating its validity.

Sibal said the insistence on two native languages deprived students of having an informed choice and raised issues of federalism.

Justice Bagchi was quick to respond and said there is no issue of federalism, as more and more languages are added to the eighth schedule terming them as national languages. "But this could be an issue of unreasonableness when trained teachers and books are not available in the schools," he said.

The lead petition, filed through advocate Deshmukh by 17 parents and two teachers of children studying in Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon and Chennai in CBSE-affiliated schools, said the new policy is contrary to CBSE's April 9 notification categorically assuring that third language is "not applicable till the academic session 2029-30 at the Class IX level".

However, change of policy to three languages, of which two must be Indian, on May 15 — after commencement of session for 2026-27, allocation of languages and finalisation of timetables — will cause irreversible harm to thousands of Class IX students and take away livelihood of many teachers proficient in teaching foreign languages, as they would have to make way for teachers who can teach regional languages, the petition said.

It said the problem of students and teachers are aggravated by the non-availability of textbooks and teaching material and CBSE making ad hoc arrangements by asking students to learn the basics of the second Indian language from Class VI textbooks.

"Mandating a compulsory subject without textbooks, trained teachers, or an assessment framework does not amount to quality education; it is a constitutional violation," the petition said, and requested SC to stop CBSE from making such compromises on quality education.

HC imposes total ban on slaughter of cow and calf in Tamil Nadu

A.Subramani@timesofindia.com

Chennai: The Madras high court has imposed a blanket ban on cow slaughter, directing the Tamil Nadu govt to ensure that no cow or calf is slaughtered on the eve of Bakrid or "on any other day".

Allowing a PIL seeking to prevent the slaughter of cows in public places, a vacation bench of Justices G R Swaminathan and V Lakshminarayanan asked the chief secretary and the additional DGP (law and order) "to issue suitable instructions to all the officials concerned to ensure that there is no breach of this order".

The petitioner, K Surya Prasanth of Coimbatore, said he was constrained to file the PIL as arrangements were being made for 'qurbani' (sacrifice) of cows and calves on the occasion of Bakrid in areas not designated as slaughterhouses.

The judges said Article 48 of the Constitution of India mandated that the State should take steps for prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. "During the debates in the Constituent Assembly, it was pointed out that the cow is a revered animal and that it has been associated with our civilisation from the time of Lord Krishna. During the rule of many Muslim kings, cow slaughter was abolished," the bench said.

The bench referred to an undated govt order that banned the slaughter of cows and heifers "in all the slaughter houses in Tamil Nadu" "in the interest of milk production and the improvement of rural economy" . Reiterating that the order should be enforced, as it had the force of law, the judges posted the case to May 29 for compliance.

'Criticism of judiciary could not be suppressed because it is unpleasant'

▶ Continued from page 1

While the bench binned a plea seeking a ban on the Suriya-starrer last week, the detailed order published Wednesday said criticism of the judiciary could not be suppressed merely because it was unpleasant or uncomfortable. "Justice is not a cloistered virtue; she must be allowed to suffer the scrutiny and respect even though outspoken comments of ordinary men."

Observing that cinema and satire inherently employed exaggeration, the bench stressed filmmakers were entitled to artistic licence and that freedom of expression under Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution protected even unpopular or offensive speech.

The high court judges further said courts and judges should be open to public criticism and debate, citing several Supreme Court rulings and foreign precedents on free speech.

HC also took note of the fact that CBFC had already cleared the film for release and said it would not substitute its opinion for that of a statutory expert body.

Mocked as 'petty thief', two youth kill stranger to build fearsome reputation

In a chilling case of murder committed solely to build "reputation" and "elevate criminal image", Saharanpur police arrested two daily wagers for killing a 32-year-old accountant. Police said the prime suspect orchestrated the murder of a stranger to shed the humiliating tag of a petty "thief" and instill fear in his village. The suspects, Vishal Kumar and Gagan Kumar, both in their early 20s, were arrested for the murder of Pintu, a brick-kiln accountant who went missing on April 29. His body was found in a drain near their village on May 3. According to SP (Rural) Mayank Pathak, Vishal was jailed in a robbery case last year and recently released. TNN

MP cop hurt as sand mafia run tractor over him

Bhopal: A head constable was injured after a suspected illegal sand miner allegedly tried to crush him with a sand-laden tractor in MP's Balaghat district late Tuesday. Police arrested one and detained two for questioning. Acting on information about illegal sand transportation, officers Rajeshwar Rahangdale and Sunil Vishwakarma reached the spot. During the operation, the tractor allegedly hit Rahangdale. TNN

ED attack reminiscent of '24 Sandeshkhali incident

▶ Continued from page 1

During searches at Vijayan's residence and nine other premises, ED seized details of bank deposits and other documents, and freezed about Rs 18.36 crore in around 242 accounts. The evidences recovered are being analysed, it said. The investigators came under attack as they were leaving Vijayan's residence — the scenes in Kerala reminiscent of the 2024 attack on an ED team by a violent mob when it visited West Bengal's Sandeshkhali to question TMC functionary and mass-rape accused Sheikh Shahnawaz. "One of the ED search teams was attacked by a group of people after conclusion of searches at Veena's and Vijayan's premises. The crowd attacked the team's cars with bricks and iron rods without any provocation. This shows that some people conspired for the attack and was not a spontaneous reaction," ED said.

Vijayan greets party workers gathered outside his residence during the ED raid on Wednesday

"Three cars in which ED search team and CRPF personnel were travelling were attacked and vandalised. One of the drivers suffered eye injury," it said, adding neither ED officials nor CRPF personnel used any aggression on the crowd. Police said four persons have been arrested and five are in "custody" in connection with the violence. On the probe against Exalogic Solutions, ED sources claimed investigation shows regular payments by CMRL — in which the public holds a 48.75% stake and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation 13.41% stake — into Veena's firm.

▶ Kerala HC clears ED probe path, P11

Dehydrated birds sent to Ggn hosp via delivery app

Gurgaon: Every time there is a heatwave, Bird Charity Hospital here is prepared to receive dozens of dehydrated and injured birds. However, what has caught vets by surprise this summer is how they are arriving, **reports Ipsita Pati**. Residents who spot ailing birds send them for urgent medical care via app-based delivery services.

The hospital receives over 30 birds daily, including pigeons, doves, parrots, bulbuls, mynas, kites, owls and peacocks, handed over by delivery agents in perforated cardboard boxes. Residents book small parcel deliveries on apps like Porter to the hospital at Sadar Bazar.

Parayni Madan recently used this method for a pigeon chick that had fallen out of its nest. "It was on the road near our house. Since we could not immediately go to the hospital, we sent it through Porter," she said. The hospital staff said that many bird rescuers are unable to travel long distances in extreme heat, and app-based transport services have become a quick way to ensure birds get the treatment required.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Principal Director, Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department
3rd floor, 'A' Block, TTMC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru-560 027.
Phone No:- 080-22214817, Fax No:- 080-22216500,
E-mail: 1. controllerstateaccounts@yahoo.com, 2. controllerksaad@gmail.com

ಸಂ : ರಾಲೆಪ/06/ಪ್ರಹೊ.ವಾ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27.05.2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department has invited tender from the registered agencies for providing Vehicles (14) along with Drivers to Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department Officers on monthly hire on Annual rate contract.

The interested service providers can download electronic form of RFP and submit their proposals in PDF form at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal with digital signature. For further information and references, the service providers are requested to visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. Please refer the eligibility criteria from the RFP documents and submit the proposals on or before **24.06.2026 16:00 Hrs.**

1) RFP Publishing Date **: 26.05.2026. 2)** Last date & time for submission of bid : **24.06.2026 (4.00 PM). 3)** Pre Bid meeting **: 23.06.2026 (12.30 PM). 4)** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid :**25.06.2026 (4.00PM). 5)** Commercial Bid : **30.06.2026 (4.00PM).**

Sd/-
Principal Director
DIPR/CP/839/Zen/2026-27 **Karnataka State Audit & Accounts Department**

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
ITI Mallepally Campus, 1st Floor, Vijayanagar Colony, Mallepally Hyderabad - 500057
Phone No. 040-23221705 Email: cettelangana@gmail.com

No: PM-SETU/3427/2024 Date:27-05-2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Department of Employment and Training invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from Anchor Industry Partners (AIP) interested in Collaborating on the Upgradation of 6 HUB and 24 SPOKE ITI Institutions in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded (ITIs) - Component-I : Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). This Request For Proposal (RFP) is issued in accordance with the Government of Telangana's e-Procurement Portal

The Request for Proposal (RFP) document for the six (6) clusters can be downloaded from the Telangana e-Procurement Portal starting from 21-05-2026. The last date for uploading the completed RFP along with supporting documents through the e-Procurement Portal is 02-06-2026 before 5 :00 P.M. The corresponding **Tender IDs are: 703289, 703325, 703331, 703335, 703340, and 703342.**

For more information, please visit the Website: **https://etenders.telangana.gov.in**
For assistance, you may contact:040-23221705/ or visit the office in person during working hours.

Sd/-Director,
DIPR R.O.No.177-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:27-05-2026 **Dept. of Employment & Training**

U.P. CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES FEDERATION LTD.
9-A, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow.

Tender Notice
Extension of Tender Pre-Bid Date

Please refer to GeM Tender Notice for **Morna Project:** GEM/2026/B/7529233 DATE-14/05/2026 & **Bagpat Project:** GEM/2026/B/7529501 DATE-14/05/2026, tender Pre-Bid date has been extended and further details for above tenders can be obtained from **GeM portal https://gem.gov.in/.**

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JAIPUR CITY TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

No.:- MD/JCTSL/2026-27/D - 520 Date :- 26/05/2026

Corrigendum - 07

This is with reference to JCTSL Bid no 07/2025-26 published on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** UBN No.JCT2526SLOB00009 and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Tender ID 2026_JCTS_532359_1, Some amendments are made. Detail of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from above mentioned websites and JCTSL Website **(http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jctsl).**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3611 **OSD, JCTSL**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer Sarvajnanagara Division, 9th C Main, HRBR Layout, 1st Block. Kalyannagara Bengaluru - 560 043

No:EE/SGN/KPPP/TEND/03/2026-27 **Date: 27-05-2026**

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer (Sarvajnanagara Division), BNCC Zone-1, Bengaluru. on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD /Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations. For the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler strips, Lane Marking, Junction Markings, different types of sign boards, pilican signals and Kerb stones, HRPC and other safety furnitures as per Traffic police requests in Sarvajnanagara Division. **Approximate value of work : ₹.320.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.4,80,000.00, Cost of Tender Form in Rs (Non-refundable) inclusive of GST: As per E- Procurement Portal (₹1.00 lakh through e- payment balance Rs. ₹ 3,80,000/- through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal from **11-06-2026** (2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **17-06-2026** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Executive Engineer, BDA Building, 9th C Main Road, HRBR layout, 1st Block, Banasawadi, Bengaluru. (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **29-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of opening of Financial Bid is **30-06-2026** after **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Sarvajnanagara Division, Zone-1, BNCC

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570010
ಫೋನ್ 0821-2440752 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mysuruzoo.info
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: zoomysore@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎಂವೈಜೆಡ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.05.2026

ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಯೂನಿಟ್-1,2,3,4 ಮತ್ತು 5ರ ಆಹಾರ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (1ನೇ ಕರೆ) (ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ 1) Unit-1 Supply of Clean Buffalo Meat/Bovine Liver and Heart Indent No.81/26-27 Dt.26.05.26 2) Unit-2 Supply of Fish, Prawns and Dressed Skinless Chicken Indent No. 82/26-27 Dt.26.05.26 3) Unit-3 Supply of Reed Grass and other grass Indent No. 83/26-27 Dt.26.05.26 2 4) Unit-4 Supply of Food Grains Mysuru Indent No.84/26-27 Dt.26.05.26. 5) Unit-5 Supply of Miscelaneous articles Indent No.85/26-27 Dt.26.05.26 ಅನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp kamataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಪಾಸಾಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಾರು/136/2026-27

Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
(Department of Labour)
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI College Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-29753354/56, E-mail: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

No.: KBOCWWB/NOTIFICATIONS/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

Tender (Two bid system - Technical and Financial bids) is hereby invited by Board from the interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid document for Selection of an Agency for Supply and Delivery of Students Essential Kits in the year 2026-27 for the Registered Construction Workers Children (from Class 01 to 05, 06 to 08 and 09 to12) of Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Bengaluru.

Tender shall be submitted electronically through K.P.P. Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission of completed tenders is on **06.06.2026 up to 5:00 P.M.** For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary, KB&OCWWB
DIPR/CP/LC/865/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:SEE/Tr(Op)C-N/EE/AEE-1/F-887&T6/26-27/910 Date: 27.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/WORK_INDENT0308 for **Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of C-type Wedge Connectors of Various sizes suitable for CT's, Breakers, isolators etc, required at 220/66/11kV SRS Peenya Receiving Station coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operation) Circle-North, KPTCL, Bengaluru.**

The details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained by login into the **website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink" **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.05.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Trans (Operation) Circle-North, KPTCL,
UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/08/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-2 division (Package-31) Call-04	1,859.56	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.17,60,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP portal: **01.06.2026** before **17:30 Hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **02.06.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **09.06.2026** before **17:30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026** after **17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/864/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/07/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-1 division. (Package-30) Call-04.	1,633.64	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.15,34,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP portal: **01.06.2026** before **17:30 Hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **02.06.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **09.06.2026** before **17:30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026** after **17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/863/CCL/2026-27

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports

Shri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Historic Decision by the **Government of Karnataka!**

2%

The Government of Karnataka has approved the implementation of

Sports Reservation

for meritorious sportspersons in direct recruitment across all levels of all departments in the State Government.

Additionally, a 3% reservation for sportspersons has been implemented in the direct recruitment of the Police Department for the posts of Constable, Sub-Inspector and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP).

Sports-friendly government, sports-friendly Chief Minister

Also, meritorious medal-winning sportspersons of the Olympics Games, Paralympics Games, Asian Games, Asian Para Games and Commonwealth Games are being directly recruited to **Group-A, Group-B and other government posts** in State Government departments through a Selection Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

Commissioner,
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

Principal Secretary to Government
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

State Youth Centre, Nrupatunga Road, Bangalore -560001.
Youth Helpline: 155265

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports | Dyes_Karnataka | dyesdept@gmail.com | dyes.karnataka.gov.in

EDUCATION AHEAD

SPOTLIGHT

From AI literacy to interdisciplinary education, experts explained how students can make smarter degree choices aligned with future industry expectations and technologically evolving job markets

Respedit.Bangalore@timesofindia.com

(L to R) Dr KN Subramanya, S Sadagopan, Dr Kiran Kumari Patil, Dr Seshachalam D and Dr Udayakumar Reddy

(L to R) Harold Fernandes, Nisshanth Kumar M, Nilisha Mohapatra, Dr AV Arunkumar, Dr Dinesh Nilkant and Dr Harold Andrew Patrick

Preparing students for the future

With the admission season gathering pace across colleges and universities in Karnataka, The Times of India organised Mission Admission, a timely education outreach event that drew an overwhelming response from students, parents, and educators. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Mohammad Mohsin, additional chief secretary, medical education department, Government of Karnataka. Addressing students at the event, Mohsin urged them to adopt a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis while selecting a course and planning their careers.

"As you identify your SWOT, you gain a structured understanding of how to leverage your advantages. Ask questions and do not follow herd mentality. Enjoy the stream or career you choose and evaluate its market relevance," he said.

Dayananda Sagar University and BITS Pilani Digital were the Platinum Sponsors for this event. The Gold Sponsors include CMR University, Presidency University, Gopalan Group of Institutions, RV University, Alliance University, Presidency College, Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management, and IFIM Institutions. The event was supported by Amity University, MVJ College of Engineering, RajaRajeswari College of Engineering, Dr ACS College of Engineering, Nargund Group of Institutions, Chanakya University, Sapthagiri University, Vydehi Group of Institutions, S.E.A Group of Institutions, CMN Institute of Technology, and Atria University. India Branch Campus Partners from Eruditus was one of the sponsors, while the Banking Partners for the event were Canara Bank and Union Bank.

The inaugural address was followed by the first panel discussion titled How Industry-Ready Is Engineering Education in Karnataka? The panel featured Dr KN Subramanya, principal, RV College of Engineering; Dr Udayakumar Reddy, dean, School of Engineering, Dayananda Sagar University; Dr Kiran Kumari Patil, director, Innovations and deputy director, CMR School of Engineering and Technology; and Dr Seshachalam D, professor and vice principal (Administration), BMS College of Engineering. Moderated by Prof S Sadagopan, former director of IIIT-Bangalore, the hour-long interactive session focused on bridging the gap between classroom learning and evolving industry expectations.

The second panel discussion focused on Smart degree choices: How to match your degree with the current industry demand. The panel included Harold Fernandes, product leader, BITS Pilani Digital; Nisshanth Kumar M, professor, Chanakya University; Dr AV Arunkumar, professor and director, IFIM Institutions; Dr Dinesh Nilkant, provost, Presidency University; and Dr Harold Andrew Patrick, professor and director, Alliance University. Nilisha Mohapatra, head of growth and partnerships at TeamLease, moderated it.

Here are a few key takeaways from the two detailed discourses.

DOMAIN EXPERTISE

Recruiters across industries have always asked for candidates' domain expertise. There has been a debate between generalists and specialists. Kumar stated that it is time for the education system to evolve beyond producing just specialists. "We need something I would call a platform university. It should be a place where people from many fields, with depth and breadth academically, discuss problems and find solutions or at least understanding." According to Kumar, we are at the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution, and it needs a new type of workforce.

Dr Subramanya explained the shift in the asks for domain expertise by referring to engineering. He informed that courses are continuously adapting to the latest technologies while keeping the core intact. Engineering institutions are redesigning curricula to align with AI, automation, and evolving industry needs. New branches such as AI & Data Science and Cybersecurity have emerged, while core disciplines like mechanical, civil, electrical, and electronics are increasingly integrating AI through minors, honours programmes, micro-credentials, and platforms like NPTEL. "AI, Python, and digital skills are now being introduced from the first year, supported by industry-led electives, internships, project-based learning, and experiential learning opportunities." Thus, the domain knowledge today vouches for inter-disciplinary prowess.

DEGREE SELECTION

A student's choice of degree is often influenced by pressure, hype, or passion. However, it isn't a sustainable practice. "Today, career-focused education must be built on three pillars: skills, technology, and meaningful internships. Pedagogy is ultimately the mechanism through which this learning is delivered," apprised Dr Nilkant. Internships, in particular, need to evolve beyond being a compliance exercise. Effective internships should immerse students in the profession they are passionate about.

According to Patrick, the most important question students and families should ask today is not which degree is popular, but which fields are truly future-relevant. "Education can no longer operate with yesterday's logic, because technology, data, and digital transformation are reshaping the industry itself."

Shifting the focus to the BFSI sector, Dr Arunkumar said, "The BFSI sector remains one of the largest generators of employment, absorbing nearly 30–35 per cent of graduates across institutions. However, the sector is being fundamentally transformed by fintech, digital lending, AI, and analytics, reducing the divide between engineering and non-engineering careers."

Mohammad Mohsin

Gururaj Bhat

Manjunatha R

AI-EMBEDDED EDUCATION

Digital transformation is reshaping every profession, and education systems can no longer ignore the shift. Nevertheless, a few experts lamented over the surface level changes. "Reforms introduced under the NEP have, in many cases, become more documentation-driven rather than focused on meaningful student outcomes," said Nilkant. "The priority for institutions must be capability building, especially in AI and emerging technologies."

Dr Reddy advised the students not to perceive AI as a threat but to consider it as an intelligent collaborator. "Students must move beyond being AI users to becoming AI creators and system builders. Equally important is learning where AI fails, how to evaluate its outputs critically, and how to use it responsibly."

Today, AI literacy is increasingly viewed as a basic professional skill. Fernandes noted that those unfamiliar with AI skills are seen as "AI illiterate." "Students must ask how AI can support their career approach. Everyone needs to be educated in a way that enables them to use AI either as a tool or as a technology to advance their careers," he said.

Dovetailing the other panellists, Dr Patil opined that AI literacy will become essential across every discipline, and that every student, of the present and future generations, must become AI-empowered. "The future of education lies in integrating intelligent technologies such as AI with core domains such as electrical, mechanical, civil, mechatronics, and electronics engineering."

Dr Seshachalam expressed that AI's impact is horizontal. "AI's role should be seen as supplementary rather than substitutive, a tool that enhances human capability rather than replaces it. This transformation will influence every discipline, not only engineering but also fields such as medicine and other professional domains." He advised students and professionals to develop the confidence and willingness to learn AI.

As the event progressed, Manjunatha R, joint controller of examinations and PRO, KEA, led two immersive sessions, offering a detailed walkthrough of CET counselling and NEET counselling, with special guidance on securing state quota seats. Meanwhile, Gururaj Bhat, joint secretary, COMEDK, conducted an insightful session on COMEDK counselling, helping students better understand the admission process and key counselling procedures.

Audience in rapt attention

BCCL does not endorse and is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
International Airport, Mumbai

1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR NON-AERO CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited (**"MIAL"**) invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for **Passenger Services** Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

Parties are requested to visit the website:
(https://csmia.adaniairports.com/ → Business → Tenders) to download the application form for purchase of RFP documents

Please check the website for the deadline for submission of Application.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/1219 DATE: 26/05/2026

E-Tender /Re-Tender/ Short term E-Tender Notification (Call-2 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tender/Re-Tender/ Short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 works under head of account 5054-MDR improvements, 1 work under head of account 5054-KRDCL, 1 work under head of account 4059-SCP (CMIDP), 1 work under head of account 8443-Deposit Contribution and 1 work under head of account 3054-MDR Bridge Maintenance. Totally 6 No. of works, Amount put to tender is Minimum of Rs. 6.00 and Maximum of Rs. 180.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date:11-06-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications:12-06-2026 up to 5.30 PM,3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:15-06-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System):17-06-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-326/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Backward Classes Welfare Department

No. 16-D, 3rd Floor, D Devaraj Urs Bhavan,
Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560052
Email : bcwd.training@gmail.com. Phone: 8050770004

BCWD-16/14/2026-BCWD_TRAINING-BCWD Date: 25.05.2026

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
(Pre-qualification bids along with Financial Proposal (Budgetary Quote)

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from Integrated PU Colleges to provide PUC (Science) education along with pre-examination coaching for **JEE/NEET/CET examinations for Class 10th passed Backward Classes Students** sponsored by Backward Classes Welfare Department, Govt of Karnataka.

For details, please visit website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
KPPP helpline No. **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777**
The last date for submission of EOI is **03.06.2026** at **3.30 P M.**

Sd/-
(EOI Inviting Authority)
Deputy Director, Commissionerate,
Backward Classes Welfare Department
Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/826/NR/2025-26

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. EL-G-RNC-OT-CUMMINS-13-26, dated 26.05.2026. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/Ranchi, S.E. Railway, Ranchi for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work which is scheduled to open on 18.06.2026 at 16.00 hrs. or later. **Brief description/ Name of the work :** Maintenance, Operation, Schedules & Troubleshooting of 500 kVA DA sets of M/s Cummins make CPCB-I, II & IV along with escorting of power car and LSLRD including HOG activities for a period of two (02) years. **Tender cost : ₹ 8,17,65,854.40. EMD/Bid security : ₹ 16,35,300/-. Tender closing date & time :** 16.00 hrs. on 18.06.2026. **Website particular : https://www.ireps.gov.in/** The tender detail can be viewed at the website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tender. (PR-240)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 2, 2/1 and 2/3,Kalidas Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560009.
Phone No. 080-2226 5383, Email : ceoem@kiadb.in, website : www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/JDTP/FN: 43/150/2026-27 Date:26-05-2026

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

KIADB has obtained Environment Clearance for the Development of Industrial Layout in Dharwad Node-3 in an area of 1014 Acres (410.36 Ha) at Siddapura, Venkatapura, Hosavala, Guledakoppa & Madhikoppa Villages, Dharwad Taluk and District from State Level Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on **22-05-2026**. The Copy of the Environment Clearance is available in the **(https://parivesh.nic.in)** website.

Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/CP/834/NR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 1			
1.	Construction of Approach Road and Development of Area near HQ SPL DG (WC), Industrial Area Phase-II, Chandigarh. Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 203.17 Lacs EMD : Rs. 4,06,335/- Time Limit : 06 Months	29.05.2026 To 05.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	05.06.2026 at 12.00 noon
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
2.	Re-carpeting of V-4 Road in front of Sector 20 Market under the jurisdiction of Road Sub Division No. 5, M.C, Chandigarh Est. Cost : Rs. 70.47 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,40,947/- Time Limit : 02 Months	28.05.2026 To 04.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	04.06.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.1, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh (O) 0172-5021626
and Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/06/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in K.R. Puram-1 division (Package-26) **Call-04.**	1,416.48	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.14,00,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/869/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED ANGADI

ELCOT Angadi

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-HO9-2026-0020

ELCOT Angadi Division invites tender for **"Comprehensive AMC for the Maintenance of Closed Circuit Television Cameras installed in the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai and all the Courts of the District Judiciary of the State of Tamil Nadu".** For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **10.06.2026, 11.00 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **24.06.2026, 3.00 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in.**

DIPR/1969/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

25001/253/2627

Phone : 06670-235504
E_Mail : serwbpt@yahoo.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA
Bid identification No.: BPT/Online-04/2026-27 Date-18.05.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Bridge works in the District of Kalahandi under SBY.
2. No of Works : 02 Nos.
3. Location details : Kalahandi District
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
26.05.2026 11.00 A.M.	10.06.2026 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026	11.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0005

25001/251/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail :- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. :- 0680-2404287)

E-Mail / E-despatch

No. e-tender // 3567 // RWC// BAM // Dated. 26.05.26

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/05-2026-27/BPR

1) The partial modification of Building works under **Block Level Stadium** vide above identification has been made as follows.

1	Date of availability of tender	::	**17.06.2026 to 01.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 19.05.2026 to 04.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM.
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	::	**29.06.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 02.06.2026 at 5.30 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	::	**02.07.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 05.06.2026 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid	::	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0011

34001/264/2627

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 03/2026-27
e-mail: ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com/sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2600 dt. 26.05.2026

1. No. of the work : 3 number of Road Works
2. Estimated cost : Rs. 132.67 Lakhs to Rs. 738.37 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor : "B", "A" & "Special" Class
4. Period of completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months to 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal : From 11.00 Hours of 04.06.2026 to 17.00 Hours of 18.06.2026
6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 17.00 Hours of 18.06.2026
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal : 11.30 Hours on 19.06.2026
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR - 34001/34033/1/26-27/0007

25001/254/2627

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No - 06782/260318
Balia, Balasore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 05 of 2026-27
Letter No: 2423 /WE Date : 26.05.2026

1. Name of the work : Bridge works.
2. Total No. of work : As per Annexure
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	**NCB No. 05 of 2026-27**	05.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	24.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	23.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- **Er. Durjyodhan Behera**
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Balasore
OIPR-25001/25105/1/26-27/0007

25001/261/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG-08 of 2026-27, Letter No- 3004 /Dtd. 21.05.2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Roads (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-08 of 2026-27	01.06.2026 11:00 AM	20.06.2026 5:00 PM	19.06.2026 5:00 PM	22.06.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR-25001/25133/1/26-27/0010

25001/255/2627

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in
☎ 06764-236404

OVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL- 07/2025-26

No. 1817 // **Dt. 25.05.2026**

1. Name of the work : Road work
2. Total No. of work : 1 No.
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 221.47 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online-AGL-07/ 2025-26	01.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	16.06.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	12.06.2026 up to 01.00 P.M.	17.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	Will be intimated Separately

For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Angul
OIPR-25001/25096/1/26-27/0001

12001/28/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com
e-procurement notice No.- 03/OPHWC/2026-27
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC),** Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1.	Nature of work	**Building works**
2.	No. of Works	**05 Nos.**
3.	Value of Tender	**Rs. 89.77 Lakh to Rs. 6904.94 Lakh**
4.	Class of Contractor	**'B' Class to 'Super' Class**
5.	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	**Rs.11,800.00**
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	**Dt. 30/05/2026 to Dt. 20/06/2026 up to 5.00 P. M.**
7.	Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	**Dt. 22/06/2026 up to 5.00 P. M.**
8.	Date of Opening Bid	**Dt. 22/06/2026 at 10.30 A. M.**
9.	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	**Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.**
10.	* The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. * The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**

N.B. The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.

OIPR-12001/12025/1/26-27/0003

32001/290/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER BALANGIR
MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.- BMIC-BLGR/01/2026-27

The Chief Engineer, Balangir M.I Circle, Balangir on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bids in Double cover only through ONLINE mode** for the Construction of works detailed in the table from **"B & A"** Class Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government /M.E.S/ Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works.

1. Name of the works : Civil Construction works under M.I. Division, Balangir and Padampur for the year 2026-27
2. Total No. of works : **04** (Four) **Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from **Rs. 112.74 lakh to 167.50 lakh** (Approximately)
4. Class of Contractor : Class **"B & A"**
5. Period of completion : **Refer DTCN**
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal for online bidding : **From 30.05.2026** at **10.00 A.M.** to **09.06.2026** up to **5.00 P.M.**
7. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in ONLINE : **09.06.2026** up to 5.00 P.M.
8. Date and place of Opening of Technical Bid : **10.06.2026** at 11.00 A.M, at Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Balangir M.I, Circle, Balangir.
9. Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid : **To be intimated through website/E-mail after evaluation of Technical Bid.**
10. Date of Transparent Lottery (if cases arise) : **To be intimated through website/E-mail after evaluation of Financial Bid.**
11. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid : Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Balangir M.I Circle, Balangir, Near Sub-Collector Office, Women's College Chowk, Dist.- Balangir, Pin-767001 E-mail ID:- **acemicbalangir2023@gmail.com**

Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- **Chief Engineer**
Balangir M.I Circle, Balangir

OIPR-32001/32347/1/26-27/0002

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/09/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Byatarayanapura division (Package-33) **Call-04.**	2,265.34	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.21,65,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/870/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/05/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Bangalore South-1 division (Package-20) **Call-04.**	1,438.14	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.14,00,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/868/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Sarvagna Nagara division (Package-3) **Call-04.**	1,751.21	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.16,51,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/866/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

AIADMK truce halts revolt, but cracks remain in EPS camp

Chennai: AIADMK stepped back from brink of a full-blown split Wednesday after a bruising two-week faction war forced rebel camp led by CV Shanmugam and SP Velumani into a fragile truce with party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, though simmering distrust and threats of resignation exposed cracks far from healed.

Ceasefire appeared shaky from outset. Shanmugam remained unwilling to accept Palaniswami's command and was contemplating resigning his MLA post, triggering unease among supporters in his native Villupuram district. He refused comments when reporters approached him.

Former minister Velumani sought to draw the curtain over a bare-knuckle power struggle, describing it as merely a "difference of opinion" rather than a split. "We are united. There is no split as suggested by sections of media," he said after withdrawing petition filed before speaker JCD Prabhakar on May 13 seeking his appointment as floor leader and disqualification of Palaniswami and 21 MLAs aligned with him. AIADMK won 47 seats in 234-member assembly in April elections. TNN

Collegium clears 4 HC CJs for elevation to SC

V Mohana May Be 2nd Woman Picked From Bar

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

After appointment of the judges, the court's working strength will increase from 32 at present to 37

New Delhi: Ten days after President promulgated an ordinance to increase the Supreme Court judge strength to 38, the SC collegium led by CJI Surya Kant on Wednesday recommended the Union govt to appoint four HC chief justices — Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli — and senior advocate V Mohana as judges of the SC.

On appointment, Mohana will become the second woman, after Justice Indu Malhotra, to be directly appointed from the bar as judge of the SC. The recommendations were finalised after a stormy preliminary discussion on May 22, which went on at CJI's residence till well beyond midnight.

However, the names were finalised on Wednesday by the collegium comprising CJI Kant, and Justices Vikram Nath, J K Maheshwari, B V Nagarathna and M M Sundresh after eliminating the names over which there was major difference of opinions. On appointment of these five as judges, the SC's working strength will increase from 32 at present to 37, leaving just one vacancy.

Punjab and Haryana HC chief justice Nagu was part of the three-member in-house inquiry committee set up by then CJI Sanjiv Khanna to inquire into the discovery of huge amounts of cash in half burnt state at the residence of then Delhi HC judge Yashwant Varma in March last year. Justice Varma has since resigned as a judge of Allahabad HC.

Justice Nagu was appointed as a judge of MP HC in May 2011 and then as CJ of Punjab and Haryana HC on July 9, 2024. As an SC judge, he would have a three-and-a-half year tenure and is scheduled to retire on Dec 31, 2029.

Mohana is a first generation lawyer and became an advocate on record in 1996. She was designated as senior advocate by the SC in Apr 2015. Hailing from Coimbatore, she practiced law for over 37 years after obtaining her law degree in 1988.

Bombay HC Chief Justice Chandrashekhar will have a tenure of less than four years in the SC and will retire on May 24, 2030. He was part of the Lok Sabha Speaker appointed Judges Inquiry Committee that was investigating the alleged misconduct of Justice Yashwant Varma. MP HC Chief Justice Sachdeva on appointment to the SC will have a tenure of three and half years. J&K and Ladakh HC Chief Justice Palli will have a tenure of three years and four months on appointment as SC judge.

PAN PAN alert: Akasa Air flight diverts amid bad weather

Arvind.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

The flight from Bengaluru to Bhubaneswar made the alert call due to low fuel after being diverted due to bad weather at its destination

Lucknow: A full emergency was declared at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow on Wednesday night after an Akasa Air flight from Bengaluru to Bhubaneswar made a "PAN PAN" call due to low fuel after being diverted due to bad weather at its destination.

The flight, Akasa Air QP1503, of Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft (registration VT-YAJ), had 194 passengers and crew on board. The pilot sought priority clearance and requested a clear approach to land in a single attempt amid fuel constraints.

According to the incident report, the aircraft was diverted to Lucknow around 8.40pm due to adverse weather conditions in Bhubaneswar. As the situation developed, Air Traffic Control (ATC) declared a full emergency at 9.02pm following the pilot's report of low fuel levels. Emergency response protocols were activated. By 9:04 pm, crash fire tenders were deployed and positioned at designated points along the runway in readiness for any contingency. It landed safely on runway nine at 9.21pm. A minute later, the pilot informed ATC that all operations were normal and no assistance was required.

It subsequently taxied to Bay 10, where it was parked at 9.29pm. After confirming that the situation was under control, ATC withdrew the full emergency at 9.30pm.

Officials said all standard safety and emergency procedures were followed, and the situation was handled efficiently without any incident.

Following the landing, three passengers deboarded the aircraft in Lucknow. The flight was expected to resume its journey to Bhubaneswar later in the night.

Snag forces San Francisco-bound AI aircraft to return after flying for 9 hrs

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A San Francisco-bound Air India Boeing 777 with about 250 people onboard returned to Delhi after flying for almost nine hours on Wednesday. The aircraft's traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS) was not working properly. Since having a functional TCAS is mandatory over the North Atlantic oceanic region that it was to overfly en route to its destination, AI decided to ask the pilots to fly back to Delhi when the aircraft was overflying China.

"Globally, a functional TCAS is must for all aircraft flying over 29,000 feet. Apart from this, there are region-specific requirements which bar aircraft without TCAS from flying at any altitude. These include places like the EU and Dubai. TCAS allows planes to 'talk to' each other if they get too close and then one will descend and the other climb to avoid collision," said senior pilots. The aircraft, which had left Delhi at 3.09 am, returned to IGI Airport just after noon.

Advertisement No. 55/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Rail & Metro Business)
in
BEML Limited
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
16th June, 2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on
25th June, 2026
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

ED can probe laundering cases without predicate offence: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

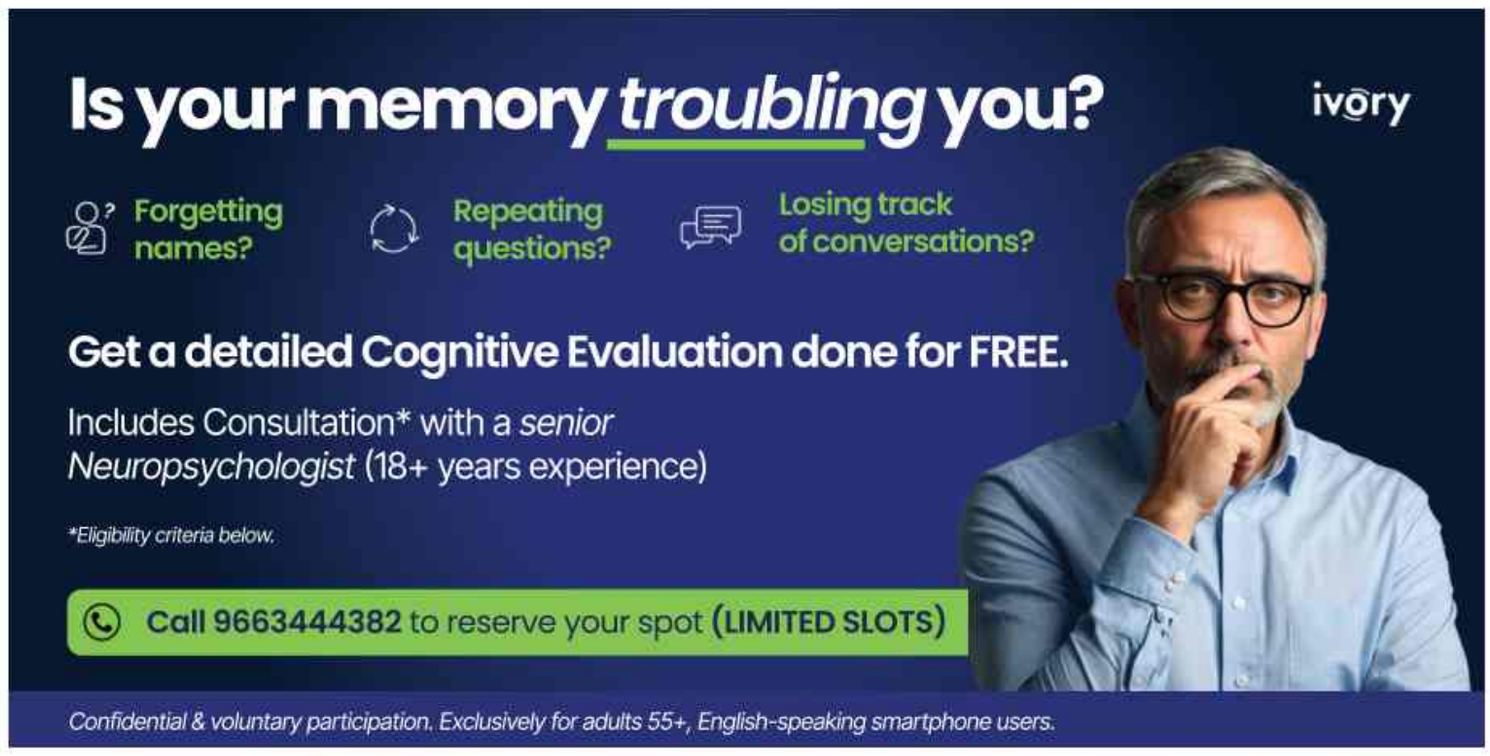
A day after the HC judgment, ED searched the residence of ex-Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

New Delhi: The ED does not necessarily require a predicate offence — an FIR registered for any scheduled offence by any enforcement agency — to initiate a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

While vacating a stay on the ED probe against Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL), a publicly listed company of Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, the Kerala high court on Tuesday dismissed a petition of CMRL on the grounds that ED's money laundering probe is independent of the existence of a schedule offence.

A day after the HC judgment, the ED launched searches on nine premises in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, including the residence of former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, where he was living with his daughter Veena, one of the accused who had allegedly received Rs 2.8 crore from CMRL without providing any IT services as claimed. Justice T R Ravi of the Kerala HC dismissed petitioner CMRL's challenge to the summons issued by the enforcement agency, saying "the issuance of summons was only for the purpose of investigation and does not even require the registration of an FIR".

Quoting from the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary (Supra) judgment of the Supreme Court, Justice Ravi held that "non-recording of an FIR regarding a scheduled offence does not impede the commencing of inquiry/investigation for initiating civil action of provisional attachment of property, being proceeds of crime, by the authorities referred to in Section 48 of the PMLA".



Send list of deleted voters to MHA for citizenship adjudication: SC to EC

Says Exercise Not Arbitrary But Asks EC To Strictly Adhere To Law

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While upholding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar electoral rolls, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the EC to send the list of names of those deleted from voter lists because of 'doubtful citizenship' to the competent authority (home ministry) within four weeks for adjudication of their citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The order comes amid a tougher scrutiny of citizenship claims of many and the tightening of borders, and details gathered by EC can potentially help the home ministry with detection and deportation of aliens who may have illegally crossed over from Bangladesh.

"The competent authority shall take the necessary decision in accordance with law, preferably before the next parliamentary, assembly or local body elections, whichever is earlier, after giving notice and an opportunity of hearing to the deleted individuals, if any," the bench said, adding that if they were found to be Indian citizens, their names would be included in electoral rolls.

On the need to conduct the SIR exercise in Bihar that petitioners had questioned, the bench said as it was being carried out after a lapse of 23 years and given the nature of problems it intended to address and the scale of the exercise, coupled with procedural safeguards, EC cannot be held to have carried out the mandate arbitrarily.

SC said every roll revision must be carried out with circumspection

The challenge to the number of documents required to be produced by voters during SIR scrutiny was also rejected by the CJI-led bench, which said, "The classification of documents, including the exclusion of certain categories (apart from Aadhaar Card, which was directed to be included by SC on Sept 8 last year), is based on intelligible criteria having a direct nexus with the objective of ensuring the integrity of the electoral roll." However, the bench sounded a note of caution to the polling body over not lightly interfering with existing names in electoral rolls and said every revision of electoral rolls must be carried out with circumspection and strict adherence to procedure laid down by law.

"The presumption of validity continues to have relevance in shaping the procedural safeguards that must accompany any process of verification. It ensures that existing entries are not lightly disturbed and that any action affecting them is supported by due process and cogent material," CJI said.

Quoting political scientist Bernard Manin, CJI Kant said, "Before any representative govt can count votes, it must first know whose votes may be counted. The story of democracy is therefore not only a story of voting but also of identifying the persons entitled to participate in the choice of govt. The electoral roll is the legal record of that political community. For this reason, disputes concerning electoral rolls are never merely administrative. They go to the composition of the electorate and, in turn, to the foundation of representative govt."

SC asks EC to check feasibility of time-stamps on VVPAT slips

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to send a PIL seeking time-stamping of the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) — a paper slip that matches votes cast in EVMs — to the Election Commission for examining its technical feasibility, while clarifying that this issue was in the poll panel's policy domain.

Appearing for petitioner N Suresh Reddy, a Telangana-based businessman, senior advocates Devadatt Kamat and Amit Raval told a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that given the oft-repeated phenomenon of last-minute surges in voting, time-stamping of VVPATs would ensure transparency and fairness in the elections.

A petitioner told a CJI-led SC bench that given the oft-repeated phenomenon of last-minute surges in voting, VVPAT time-stamping would ensure transparency and fairness in elections

EVMS must be enabled to print the exact time of voting by a voter on VVPAT without disclosing his/her identity, Kamat said. The bench said that as it fell within the EC's policy domain and involved examination of technical feasibility aspects, it would be better that the commission examined this issue.

Kamat persisted that several reforms related to elections and voting were implemented at the behest of the SC or by its orders. But the bench said since the petitioner has never given a representation to the EC on this issue, it would be better that the commission examines it threadbare.

The petitioner said that he was not seeking a return to paper ballots or 100% counting of VVPAT slips and was not questioning the results of any election.

He said he was seeking an additional audit attribute on the VVPAT slip, namely time-stamping of every slip.

SC verdict clearing EC on SIR is full of contradictions: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Wednesday slammed the SC judgment on SIR for not mentioning a clutch of "major flaws and contradictions" in EC's process that, it said, has "deprived crores of citizens" of voting rights. It said the judicial challenge by political parties and civil society pertained to flaws on part of the EC's conduct and not about the legal validity of the SIR of electoral rolls.

Congress spokesperson **Abhishek Singhvi** told a press conference that SIR has raised serious questions about the credibility of elections, as up to 80% of challenges to voters' exclusion in West Bengal have been found to be successful till now. He said if this success rate holds, then millions of voters may have been deprived of their voting rights in the recent polls.

Singhvi said the judgment is riddled with contradictions, as it did not mention glaring errors and flaws in the SIR process noticed over the past few months in different states. He said SC had ruled Aadhaar was not a proof of citizenship and EC could not adjudicate on it, but lakhs were excluded from rolls on the issue of citizenship based on 7-8 documents that SIR demanded, like ration card and parents date of birth. Similarly, he said EC had imposed an excessively short deadline for SIR for crores of persons, which led to massive exclusions, while elections were held before they could be adjudicated upon. "It is an issue the court should have pondered over." TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said the judgment was confined to the Bihar case and could not be treated as an all-India ruling, asserting issues raised in Bengal were "completely different".

Queue of B'desh illegals fleeing Bengal grows

Swarupnagar/Siliguri: Bangladeshis who had lived in Bengal for years — some for decades, armed with Aadhaar cards, ration cards and voter IDs — gathered in growing numbers Wednesday at the Bithari-Hakimpur border checkpoint in North 24 Parganas district to return home as the authorities tightened the net on illegal immigrants, report **Sanjib Chakraborty & Roshan Gupta**.

Families carrying bags, utensils and documents queued up near the border fencing as Bengal's "detect-delete-deport" drive widened across districts. Among them were many removed from rolls during SIR.

Authorities opened three "holding centres" — detention facilities to handle swelling numbers and carry out background checks and document verification, sources said. BJP MLA Anandamay Barman said large-scale infiltration took place during TMC's 15-year govt. "Infiltrators have deprived locals of their rights and altered demographic balance."

EC welcomes SC verdict, will send list of deleted voters to competent authority

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New Delhi: The Election Commission shall, as directed by the Supreme Court, forward the list of electors deleted as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) across 13 states — primarily those classified as 'others', separate from the absent, shifted, dead, duplicate (ASDD) electors and, thus, of 'suspect' citizenship as well as the ones excluded from the roll based on adjudication during which they could not explain logical discrepancies in their mapping with the roll from last SIR — to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act 1955, for examining their citizenship.

EC officials welcomed the judgement, saying SIR and all its processes, including seeking further clarification from electors based on logical discrepancies — mismatch with father's name, gender mismatch, being over 45 years but never enrolled, being one of over six progeny of the same parent, less than 15 years or over 50 years age gap with mapped parent and less than 40 years gap with mapped grandparent — and deleting ones who failed to explain the discrepancies, have been validated by SC. Those challenging SIR had earlier called these logical discrepancies an exercise in disenfranchisement.

Those challenging SIR had earlier called logical discrepancies an exercise in disenfranchisement

"The EC was, is and will always be with the voters," said chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

As per EC data for a dozen states covered in the second round of SIR, nearly 6.5 crore ASDD electors were deleted. Over 12.7 lakh were excluded from the roll and classified as 'others', which sources said are essentially "suspect illegal immigrants". Another 63.2 lakh were deleted through Form 7 and adjudication; these include over 27 lakh dropped from the Bengal roll after their appeals were rejected by officers.

The SC direction to EC to hand over the 'suspect' citizen cases to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act was already there in the SIR order. The order had instructed the electoral registration officer (ERO) and assistant ERO to "forward cases of suspected foreign nationals to the 'competent authority' under the Citizenship Act, 1955". Sources said the competent authority is the foreigners registration office (FRO) or foreigners regional registration office (FRRO), and the ERO/SDM may forward the 'suspect' cases to them for verification. In case the citizenship is verified, the FRO/FRRO may refer back the case to EC authorities who will then add the person to the roll. Else, the FRO/FRRO may order the suspect to be sent to a detention or holding centre.

Oppn bid to hide political incompetence by tainting institutions has failed: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Buoyed by the SC's endorsement of SIR, which has received flak from the opposition, BJP said Congress has encountered "total defeat" and targeted Rahul Gandhi for travelling to Car Nicobar and Vietnam during elections and then looking for a scapegoat in EC after his party's losses.

"Opposition's efforts to cover up its political incompetence by tainting all democratic institutions today proved unsuccessful and ineffective on the floor of the Supreme Court," BJP spokesperson **Sudhanshu Trivedi** said, especially blaming Congress and Rahul for stirring a controversy over the SIR of electoral rolls.

He said opposition parties, particularly Congress, had already suffered political defeat in elections and moral defeat as well due to the absence of popular support for their attempt to trigger anarchy in the country over the issue. They have now suffered a constitutional defeat as well, he told reporters.

He said the SC verdict has "destroyed" the very basis of opposition to the exercise.

Amid scenes of suspected infiltrators leaving West Bengal for Bangladesh fearing a crackdown by the BJP govt, Trivedi said this has only validated his party's stand and pointed out that some of them had admitted on camera to voting in previous polls. He said, "The true character of the opposition alliance has now been exposed — it is anti-Sanatan Dharma and protective of infiltrators."

TIMES *Special*

Why Kerala is starting govt dept for elderly

The state has the highest share of people aged above 60 years, and that's only set to go up. Rising healthcare costs to growing concerns around loneliness, the challenges are cut out for the new dept under the Cong-led UDF, which had made it a poll promise

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At 75, Mathew K V refuses to slow down. Nearly two decades after retiring as a schoolteacher, he has consciously built a life around staying active, connected and purposeful — either working on his farmland in Wayanad or attending community meetings and social gatherings.

Age, he admits, has caught up with him. He tires faster and moves slower now. But unlike many others his age who retreat into the confines of home or surrender to deepening vexation, Mathew understood early that the biggest threat facing the elderly is not illness, but isolation. And, so, he resolved never to allow himself to become idle, lonely or disconnected.

"In youth, friendship comes naturally through work, family and social life. But in old age, relationships and routines do not sustain themselves. One has to make a conscious effort to step out, meet people and remain engaged," he says.

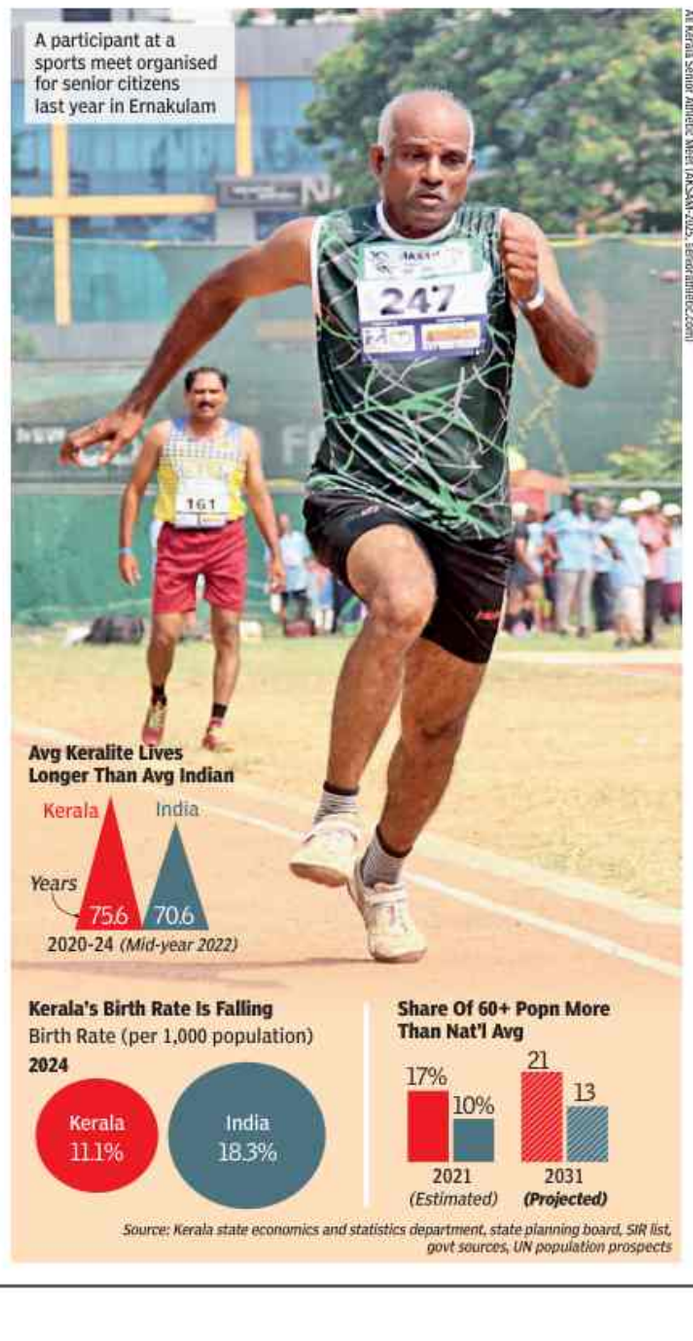
Mathew warns that loneliness among senior citizens often triggers emotional, mental and even physical decline. "Many problems in old age arise from isolation. Society and govt should not allow elderly people to slip into loneliness," he cautions.

As if echoing the concerns raised by Mathew and many other senior citizens, who form a substantial part of Kerala's demography, the state govt has now decided to place sharper focus on elderly welfare by setting up an exclusive department for senior citizens. "This is for the first time, to my knowledge, that a department dedicated to the elderly people has been created in a state in India," chief minister V D Satheesan declared immediately after the swearing-in of the new UDF govt last week.

The department will first examine the model in Japan, which brought revolutionary changes in the lives of the elderly. It will then conduct a comprehensive study to understand the concerns, condition and needs of the elderly in the state. "The true measure of a refined society lies in how it treats its elders. As a civilised society, we must extend care and hold our elderly together," the CM said. This was one of the five guarantees announced in the Congress manifesto for the 2026 assembly elections, given that the elderly make up a major voting bloc in the state.

How Will It Help?

The crude birth rate in 2023 in Kerala was 12.3 per 1,000 population (live births for every 1,000 people) as against 18.4 per 1,000 population at the national level. The current birth rate in Kerala represents a drastic drop from 31.1 in 1971. In fact, in 2023, the death rate was higher than the birth rate in four of Kerala's 14 districts.


A participant at a sports meet organised for senior citizens last year in Ernakulam

All Kerala Senior Athletic Meet (AKSAM-2025; seniorathletic.com)

Kerala's ageing population has increased faster than the rest of India. In 1961, the elderly population was 5% of Kerala's total, below the national average of 6%. However, by 2001, it had increased to 11% in Kerala, compared to 8% nationally. In 2011, it was 13% and, reportedly, might have touched 19% by 2026. The share of the elderly in Kerala's population is projected to touch 23% by 2036. The math was reflected in the latest voters' list for the 2026 state polls. Of the 2.69 crore total voters, 23% are senior citizens. Another 19% were in the 50-59 age group. The state, thus, is going to witness an explosion in its elderly population in the immediate future.

S Irudayarajan, chairman of the International Institute of Migration and Development, warns that we may soon witness a new demographic trend — similar to that in China — where the number of deaths exceeds the number of births in the next 10 to 15 years. In a report submitted to the state planning board last year, Irudayarajan said the decadal growth rate of the elderly population will touch 31% by 2051. "What we have now is a society where middle-class families opt for a single child, youngsters want to migrate abroad and elderly parents are left alone at home," said Irudayarajan.

Challenges Ahead

Kerala has long been known for its healthcare and social indicators. It is now grappling with a rapidly ageing population and a declining birth rate, raising concerns about elderly care, social support systems, and public health preparedness. Even in the past, the state govt has not been immune to the needs of the elderly.

Last year, the Kerala State Elderly Commission Act, 2025, a state policy for senior citizens, was introduced and tribunals set up to address their pleas, while around 15 welfare measures were launched for them under the social justice department.

Going forward, the absence of a dedicated and specialised task force at the ground level, fragmentation of welfare schemes across multiple departments, and shortage of funds remain the key challenges before the govt. A senior official in the state social justice department spoke of the challenge of ensuring resources to support "nearly one-third of the total population", pointing out how "indefinite welfare measures may not be sustainable in the long run".

A key focus would be to empower senior citizens by utilising their experience and expertise even after retirement through the creation of a skill bank and setting up of resource groups. "Only those above 80 years should be given intensive welfare support," the officer said.

Another dimension in the state where women enjoy longer life expectancy than men is the presence of a large share of widowed women, which stands at 59% in the age group above 60, compared with 10% widowers among men.

Kerala's oldest voter, **104-year-old Thresyamma Parashery**, after voting in the 2026 assembly polls

Those aged 60 and above made up over 23% of total voters in the rolls for 2026. Electors in the 50-59 age group account for a further 19%. With senior citizens and those nearing retirment constituting a large share of the population, the Congress-led UDF made a pointed attempt to woo them with the promise of a dedicated govt department to look into their needs

Illness, Loneliness

Another significant concern is that the majority of the elderly are still not prepared for their healthcare challenges. Very few have medical insurance, even as out-of-pocket expenditure has skyrocketed both at public and private hospitals. Experts, on the other hand, warn that Kerala's healthcare system remains ill-equipped to address the specialised needs of geriatric care. "Geriatric care is individual-specific. The focus should not be merely on treatment, but on improving the quality of life of elderly patients," said Dr Aswin Surjith, treasurer, Geriatric Society of India.

The elderly have a wide range of health concerns: lifestyle diseases, chronic illnesses, and mobility concerns. But now, another serious concern is fast emerging — 'geriatric depression' — driven largely by loneliness and social isolation.

"Many elderly people suffer from depression because they are alone at home with their children either busy at work or staying outside. Community outreach programmess like geriatric clubs, etc, are essential to keep them socially connected and engaged in recreational activities," said Surjith.

"Not just money and access to healthcare, our greatest happiness is when we get someone to speak to. This helps us fight loneliness in our golden years. When I receive a call from my daughters or come across a person willing to listen to me, it feels like heaven," said Varghese, a septuagenarian who lives with his wife in Pathanamthitta. His two children are settled abroad.

Care Homes: Changing View

Though Kerala has seen a growth in private retirement homes and old-age homes in the last few years, one can't really ignore the stigma attached to it. Often, the elderly view it as an end-of-life option — a choice they would never voluntarily make. "Placing an elderly person in a care home is often viewed as abandonment. That mindset has to change. In many countries, senior citizens willingly move into care homes because they receive round-the-clock attention and support," Surjith said.

Despite the stigma, the Orphanage Control Board (OCB), which functions under the social justice department, continues to routinely receive new applications for starting care homes in Kerala, where most care homes are run by NGOs.

"Things are slowly changing as family members of elderly people are willing to spend Rs 45-65 lakh to purchase one- or two-room apartments at paid-home facilities for their parents, where children can come to meet or stay for a few days. It is not abandonment; instead, senior citizens become an elite community," said an OCB official.

The challenge before the new govt is to redefine what growing old with dignity means. For thousands like Mathew and Varghese, dignity in old age is not measured only through pensions or hospital care, but through companionship, purpose and the assurance that they are still seen, heard and valued. Whether Kerala can transform this demographic moment into a model of humane ageing will depend on how successfully it can ensure that its elderly do not merely live longer, but live better.

WHAT JAPAN DOES

Long-Term Care Insurance — A mandatory public insurance system for citizens aged 40 and above. Covers 70% to 90% of institutional, home, or community care costs based on individual needs, shifting the financial burden away from families

Community-Based Integrated Care — Prioritises local care over prolonged hospital stays by integrating medical care, nursing, housing, and livelihood support within neighbourhoods

National 'Gold Plan' Infrastructure Plans | Designs and updates nationwide blueprints that legally mandate local municipalities to construct senior day-care centres, specialised nursing homes, and support hubs

Employment for 'Active Elderly' — Coordinates public employment offices to provide tailored job-matching, re-skilling, and flexible placement programmes for retirees who want to keep working

Frailty Prevention | Uses nationwide screening tools to catch early signs of decline, funding community fitness and social initiatives to delay the need for intensive nursing care

New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and Canada, too, have dedicated departments for elderly people

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

Source: Kerala state economics and statistics department, state planning board, SIR list, govt sources, UN population prospects

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Loan A/c Number	Base Branch	District 1 Contact	District Auction Date
FEDGL00360017222, FEDGL00360017225	ARAKALGUD - 9964260350	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	27-06-2026
FEDGL00360017261	ARAKALGUD - 9964260350	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	01-07-2026
FEDGL01580026913	CHENRAYAPATNA - 9739489738	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	27-06-2026
FEDGL04200007888, FEDGL04200007889, FEDGL04200007890	GADAG - 9902373905	Gadag - 9902373905	01-07-2026
FEDGL01000014731	GADAG - 8197621828	HOSPET - 9743956995	01-07-2026
FEDGL01620019737	HANSUR - 9741533219	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356	29-06-2026
FEDGL01620019745	HANSUR - 9741533219	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356	01-07-2026
FEDGL01040013492	HARAPPANAHALLI - 9945998329	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	29-06-2026
FEDGL01570019167	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	27-06-2026
FEDGL00990012042	HOSPET - 9743956995	HOSPET - 9743956995	29-06-2026
FEDGL00120016305	K R PURAM - 8150839437	BTM Layout - 9980764782	29-06-2026
FEDGL00950011944	KAMPLI - 6361077968	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038	27-06-2026
FEDGL04030005596	KOPPAL - 9980073958	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836	29-06-2026
FEDGL04040010429	KUDLIGI - 7760491423	HOSPET - 9743956995	29-06-2026
FEDGL00640013779	MUNDARGI - 9886453768	Gadag - 9902373905	01-07-2026
FEDGL01600018564	NANJANGODE - 9611312789	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356	29-06-2026
FEDGL03770015101	PAVAGADA - 9448386998	B H Road - 8904344610	27-06-2026
FEDGL03770015138, FEDGL03770015143	PAVAGADA - 9448386998	B H Road - 8904344610	01-07-2026
FEDGL01800028330	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697	01-07-2026
FEDGL03760015722	SIRA - 9686864110	B H Road - 8904344610	29-06-2026
FEDGL03760015741, FEDGL03760015752	SIRA - 9686864110	B H Road - 8904344610	01-07-2026
FEDGL01930009654	SIRSI - 9845952878	SIRSI - 9845952878	27-06-2026
FEDGL00470013758	TIPTUR - 9739894909	B H Road - 8904344610	01-07-2026

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branch/es or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before auction Date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective Districts. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL https://gold.samil.in and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) - https://egold.auctiontiger.net/.

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Place : Karnataka

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Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

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Phone: +91-80-2628 2699 Email: cstriban.csb@nic.in Website: cstri.res.in

No.CSB/CSTRI/PMC/Master Reelers/2026-27 — WALK-IN-INTERVIEW — Date: 27.05.2026

Applications are invited for the posts (**73**) of Master Reelers/ Technicians/Weavers/Dyers on contract basis for a period of 10 months or from June 2026 to March 2027 under Silk Samagra-2. Interested candidates may attend the walk-in interview on **05.06.2026** at **11:00 AM**. For details, refer websites: **https://cstri.res.in** & **http://csb.gov.in**.

CBC: **41109/11/0003/2627**

Sd/-
Director

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur

Tatibandh, GE Road,Raipur, C.G.-492 010

No./AIIMS/RPR/Exam/2026/68 — Dated: 11/05/2026

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Ref. ABV-IIITMG/NF Rect./2026/239 — Date: 26/05/2026

ABV-IIITM, Gwalior is an Institute of National Importance set up by the Ministry of Education, Government of India with the objective of imparting education and conducting research of par excellence in the fields of Information & Communication Technology and IT-enabled Management. The Institute is inviting applications for Direct Recruitment to the following Administrative/Technical positions:

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2	Junior Superintendent (Library)	Level-6	32	01		B
3	Junior Superintendent (Translator)	Level-6	32	01		B
4	Junior Technical Superintendent	Level-6	32	04	UR-02, OBC-01 & SC-01	B
5	Staff Nurse	Level-6	32	01	UR	B

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Detailed information regarding the application fee, required documents, and categorywise vacant seats is available on the institute website: **www.nia.nic.in** and the last date for receipt of application form is **25-06-2026.** Candidates are advised to regularly visit the institute website for updates and further information.

(Prof. H.M.L. Meena)
Chairman, Admission Board

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GECACS/Estt-1/Recruitment/2026/ 1627 — Date: 25 MAY 2026

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Interested candidates should submit the online application with resume & necessary self- attested documents on or before 15th June 2026. The date of interview will be communicated through email to eligible candidates (email ID provided in Google form by the candidate) and will be published on institutes website.

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Principal
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Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (APDC) invites proposals through Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Manufacturers for Drone Procurement in Andhra Pradesh. The detailed EOI document, along with other relevant information, may be downloaded from the APDC website : **(https://apdrones.ap.gov.in/#/home/Welcome)**

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Sd/- **Managing Director**

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For details, please refer website **https://www.nism.ac.in/tenders/**

বসু বিজ্ঞান মন্দির/ বসু বিজ্ঞান মंदिर / BOSE INSTITUTE

কলকাতা / কোলকাতা / KOLKATA
বিজ্ঞাপন সংখ্যা: বিআই/জেআরএফ/01/2026-27
বিজ্ঞাপন সংখাঃ বিআই/জেআরএফ/01/2026-27
ADVT. NO.: BI/JRF/01/2026-27

বসু বিজ্ঞান মন্দির, কলকাতা রাসায়নিক, জৈবিক এবং ভৌত বিজ্ঞানে গবেষণার জন্য নিবেদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান। এই প্রতিষ্ঠানে বিভিন্ন গবেষণা ক্ষেত্রে পূর্ণকালীন পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামের জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য এবং অনলাইন আবেদনপত্র ইনস্টিটিউটের ওয়েবসাইট https://jcbose.ac.in/phd এ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ 02/06/2026 ।

বসু বিজ্ঞান মंदिर, कोलकाता रासायनिक, जैविक और भौतिक विज्ञान में अनुसंधान के लिए समर्पित है। संस्थान में चल रहे विभिन्न शोध विषयों में पूर्णकालिक पीएच.डी. कार्यक्रम के लिए आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। विस्तृत जानकारी और ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र संस्थान की वेबसाइट https://jcbose.ac.in/phd पर उपलब्ध हैं। ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 02/06/2026 है।

Bose Institute, Kolkata is dedicated to research in Chemical, Biological, and Physical Sciences. Applications are invited for full-time Ph.D. programme in various research disciplines being pursued at the Institute. The detailed information and online application form are available on the Institute website, https://jcbose.ac.in/phd. The last date for submission of online application is 02/06/2026.

Sd/-
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)/ रजिस्ट्रार (स्थानापन्न)/ Registrar (Officiating)

CBC 36119/11/0001/2627

Reliance Industries Limited

Growth is Life

Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Phone: +91-22-3555 5000 • Fax: +91-22-2204 2268 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

INFORMATION REGARDING (A) FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST-IPO); AND (B) RECORD DATE FOR DIVIDEND

The Forty-ninth Annual General Meeting (Post-IPO) (**"AGM"**) of the members of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing (**"VC"**) / Other Audio Visual Means (**"OAVM"**) on **Friday, June 19, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. (IST)**, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with all applicable circulars on the matter issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**"MCA"**) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**"SEBI"**), to transact the business set out in the Notice calling the AGM.

The Notice of the AGM and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statement for the financial year 2025-26, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, will be sent electronically to those members of the Company, whose e-mail address is registered with the Company / KFin Technologies Limited (**"KFinTech"**), Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent / Depository Participant(s) / Depositories. A letter providing the web-link, including the exact path, where the Annual Report and the Notice of the AGM for the financial year 2025-26 is available, will be sent to those members whose e-mail address is not registered with the Company / KFinTech / Depository Participant(s) / Depositories. The Notice of AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2025-26 will also be available on the Company's website at **www.ril.com** and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited (**"BSE"**) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**"NSE"**) at **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com**, respectively, and on the website of KFinTech at **https://evoting.kfintech.com**.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

(a) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at **www.ril.com**) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Unit: Reliance Industries Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.

(b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with their Depository Participant(s), are requested to register / update the same with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting:

Members can cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system (**"e-voting"**). The manner of voting, including voting remotely (**"remote e-voting"**) by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their e-mail address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote at the AGM through Insta Poll.

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:

Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioEvents, at https://jioevents.jio.com/rilagm. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in the Notice of AGM.

RECORD DATE FOR DIVIDEND AND PAYMENT THEREOF

(a) The Company has fixed **Friday, June 5, 2026** as the **'Record Date'** for determining the members eligible to receive dividend, recommended by the Board of Directors of the Company, for the financial year ended March 31, 2026.

(b) The dividend will be paid within 7 (Seven) days of the AGM through electronic mode. As mandated by SEBI, dividend to the members holding shares in physical mode shall be paid electronically, only after they have furnished their Permanent Account Number, Contact Details (Postal Address, Mobile Number and E-mail), Bank Account Details, Specimen Signature, etc. for their corresponding physical folios.

Manner of registering mandate for receiving Dividend:

Members are requested to register / update:

(a) their complete bank details with their Depository Participant(s), if shares are held in dematerialised mode, by submitting forms and documents as may be required by the Depository Participant(s); and

(b) Permanent Account Number, Contact Details (Postal Address, Mobile Number and E-mail), Bank Account Details, Specimen Signature, etc. with KFinTech by submitting duly filled and signed Form ISR-1 along with requisite supporting documents at its aforesaid address, if shares are held in physical mode.

Members are requested to carefully read the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM and manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or voting at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Savithri Parekh
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Dated : May 28, 2026

www.ril.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that we are conducting Title due diligence on behalf of our Client with respect to the proposed acquisition of converted lands bearing (1) Sy. No. 123 measuring 2 Acres and 17 guntas; (2) New Sy. No.122/3 (Old Sy. No. 122/1) measuring 30 guntas; and (3) Sy. No. 122/3 (Old Sy. No. 122) measuring 28 guntas, admeasuring 3 Acres 35 guntas and/or thereabout, now bearing Property No.123 Begur, Old PID No. 718/122/1,122/3,123, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru **('Property')**, from its Owners namely N Nagaraja Reddy and Govindamma B.

If any person, institution, bank or authority has any right, title, interest, claim, charge, lien, mortgage, tenancy, easement, inheritance, acquisition, attachment, litigation or any other encumbrance whatsoever over the Property or against the Owners, such person/entity is requested to notify the undersigned in writing, together with supporting documents, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no such claims exist and the same, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived.

Jyothi Rego
Senior Partner
ALMT Legal
Advocates & Solicitors
2, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Tel: 91-(0) 80-40160000
E Mail: jrego@almtlegal.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಮಹಾನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಪೂರ್ವ ವಲಯ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577006

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08192–237830

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:68/ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/ಪೂವ//2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27/05/2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ 10 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಡ್ರೋಣ್ ಕ್ಯಾಮರಾಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಡಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22/05/2026 ರಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಂ :KSP/2025-26/IND0527/CALL-2ರಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05/06/2026 ರಂದು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಜ/107/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಮಹಾ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಪೂರ್ವ ವಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

LATERAL ENTRY ADMISSIONS (NSUT & DTU)

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SECTOR-3, DWARKA, NEW DELHI – 110078

ADMISSION NOTICE (JOINT B.TECH. LATERAL ENTRY ADMISSION 2026-27)

Netaji Subhas University of Technology and Delhi Technological University invites online applications for admission in 2nd Year B.Tech. program for the academic year 2026-27 against the vacant seats in different disciplines through Lateral Entry from 02.06.2026 to 16.06.2026.

Admission will be made on the basis of Admission test conducted by the University.

Details of the admission procedure, eligibility criteria, important dates and discipline wise vacant seats will be available in admission brochure uploaded at University website **www.nsut.ac.in** and **www.dtu.ac.in**.

Sd/-
Registrar

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0077/26-27

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

YELAHANKA, BENGALURU- 560064
website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM to E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/AFS/2026-27/07 dtd. 30/04/2026

Tender No: RWF/M/OT/AFS/2026-27/07 **Name of the work:** Outsourcing the work of operation of the New Axle Forging Line (including consumables) for a quantity of 1, 80,000 axles for a period two years **Estimated Cost:** Rs.14,20,03,800/- **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.28,40,100/- **Existing Date & Time of Closing of Technical Bid:** 29/05/26 at 10.30 Hrs **Extended Date &Time of Closing of Technical Bid:** 05.06.26 **Date &Time of opening of Financial Bid:** To be notified later **Pr-Bid Conference Date & Time:** 02.06.26 at 11.30 Hrs **Completion Period:** 24 Months
This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

DY. CME/Projects
For and On behalf of President of India

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public :ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/326 — Date: 20/05/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (*40*) companies in the **Karnataka** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S.no.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC3174484	U64300KA2023PTC176526	ASANKHYA CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC3082038	U55101KA2025PTC207323	COSMIC CONNECTIONS RESORTS & HOTELS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC3021930	U70200KA2015GAT082612	SURI FAMILY CHARITABLE PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC3109979	U65990KA2022PTC164386	TEMPLEBAY FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC3214665	U74999KA2018OPC110263	BLUE JAY TECHNOLOGIES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC3145681	U85300KA2019PTC130898	RW THERAPIES PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC3144234	U74999KA2016PTC093553	AGORA RESOURCES PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC3158481	U80902KA2019PTC131025	METACOG INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC3233125	U92400KA2014OPC077789	LSHVA ART PRIVATE LIMITED (OPC)
10	AC3221480	U74999KA2021PTC153617	VAAS INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC3231778	U55100KA2024PTC184246	TRIOSPYR HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC3208444	U72900KA2018PTC115825	TWIZZLERSOFT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC3228503	U24290KA2020PTC136359	RICHIKA BLENDERS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC3275222	U70200KA2024PTC193772	LUMAGO GLOBAL CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC3307344	U72900KA2021PTC152196	AARNAGRUHI AYURWIN SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC3296501	U63030KA2021PTC147867	TRANSDELTA CONTAINER TERMINAL PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC3273542	U74999KA2018PTC112045	UCORE CONNECTRONICS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC3319991	U96010KA2023PTC171693	SRIYANSHA ENTERPRISE PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC3347519	U47219KA2023PTC171671	FOODBERRA NUTRACEUTICALS PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC3338419	U45202KA2020PTC136212	SHARATH ATHREY INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC3370129	U85300KA2019PTC120704	BITSOFCARE HEALTH SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC3361985	U72900KA2022PTC165499	E2E AI SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC3361490	U24239KA2020PTC142081	ITSCURE PHARMA PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC3400937	U47722KA2024PTC196003	DESIRSKIN CARE PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC3431505	U40108KA2008PTC048285	E TO E ENERGY SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC3384490	U66190KA2023PTC177520	SADHARMIKA FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC3415812	U74999KA2018PTC113010	BEAGUEST STAYS PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC3422801	U72200KA2001PTC028882	WEBEDGE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC3350193	U43123KA2023PTC179274	G2K HOME CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC3403719	U62099KA2024PTC192985	HUMANCANVAS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AC3410779	U74999KA2021PTC146633	I2RUNTECH TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AC3422605	U72200KA2019PTC127712	YX TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AC3436851	U72200KA2015PTC084139	PURPLEPATCH SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AC3435678	U01100KA2020PTC138830	SHIPME INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AC3448729	U46512KA2023PTC176451	CARTMED TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AC3486767	U74999KA2018PTC115534	PARTANI ADVISING SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AC3465554	U74999KA2021OPC152387	HRONUS SERVICES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AC3039537	U45201KA2020PTC134716	NS JAIN CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AC3463658	U85300KA2021PTC146459	EXPERT HEALTH MANTRA PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AC3493426	U72900KA2022PTC169139	VITRUVIAN MAN SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0152/2627

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली

अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्रांक: 65/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2026-27 — दिनांक: 27.05.2026

नगर निगम, बरेली द्वारा नगर निगम, बरेली के कर्मचारियों हेतु रामपुर गार्डन परिसर, बरेली (उ0प्र0) में 2 बी0एच0के एवं 3 बी0एच0के आवासीय भवनों का डिजाइन, इंजीनियरिंग, सामग्री की आपूर्ति, निर्माण, परीक्षण, कमीशनिंग एवं हैंडओवर कार्य EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) (टर्नकी) आधार पर कराये जाने हेतु योग्य, अनुभवी एवं पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से टू-बिड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि में यदि अवकाश होगा तो निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेंगी।

अवस्थापना निधि के अन्तर्गत प्रथम ई-निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0. 1)	
ई-निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	29.05.2026 (11:00 AM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	29.05.2026 (10:00 PM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	04.06.2026 (05:00 PM)
ई-निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	05.06.2026 (12:00 PM)
फाईनेशियल ई-निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्य का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, बरेली।

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
उत्तर-पूर्वी अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र / North Eastern Space Applications Centre
उमियम / Umiam - 793103, मेघालय / Meghalaya
Tel : 0364-2570036 Fax : 0364 – 2570139 / 2570043
Email : purchase.nesac@nesac.gov.in

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / NOTICE INVITING TENDER

निदेशक, एनईसैक, उमियम, मेघालय, भारत निम्नलिखित के लिए प्रतिष्ठित सेवा प्रदाताओं, फर्मों, ठेकेदारों आदि से मुहरबंद प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करते हैं। / Director, NESAC, Umiam, Meghalaya, India invites sealed offers from reputed Service Providers, Firms, Contractors, etc for the following:

क्र क्रंर Sl. No	एनआईटी सं. / NIT No.	कार्य का नाम / NAME OF THE WORK	डीडी के रुप में इएमडी(₹) / EMD (₹) IN THE FORM OF DD	निविदा शुल्क(₹)/ TENDER FEE (₹)
1	NESAC/1958/2026	Annual Contract for providing AC and non AC taxies at NESAC Umaim for one year/एनईसैक उमियम के लिए 01 वर्ष हेतु एसी एवं गैर-एसी टैक्सियों की उपलब्धता के लिए वार्षिक अनुबंध।	₹1,20,000/-	₹500/-

विस्तृत सूचना के लिए कृपया हमारे वेबसाईट - www.nesac.gov.in में जाएं/For detail information kindly visit our website at www.nesac.gov.in.

यदि कोई शुद्धिपत्र/परिशिष्ट होगी तो वो केवल वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित की जाएगी। Corrigendum /Addendum if any will be published in the website only.

दिनांक/Dated: 22.05.2026

हस्ता/Sd
निदेशक एनईसैक / **Director, NESAC**

From Op Sindoor to West Asia, India's drone moment takes off

India's conflict with Pakistan last year and wars in Ukraine and Iran have put drones at the centre of modern combat, with Indian firms now chasing a surge in domestic orders and demand from West Asia and Nato markets

Swati.Bharadwaj@timesofindia.com

It snakes through the skies, can travel more than 1,000km at 290-322kmph, hover for over five hours gathering intelligence, before striking deep inside enemy territory with a 25-40kg warhead.

Meet Sheshnaag-150, a drone that made its international debut in Feb at the World Defense Show in Riyadh. Developed by Bengaluru-based startup NewSpace Research & Technologies, it represents a new generation of Indian combat drones designed not just for surveillance but long-range warfare.

In Hyderabad, missile propulsion systems maker Raghu Vamsi Aerospace has built an entire family of drones through its venture ARROBOT: the micro turbojet-powered RV Indra, jet-powered kamikaze UAV Astra 100, twin-jet bomber RV Maya, and hybrid long-range kamikaze drone RV Rudra.

Just a year after Operation Sindoor, India's defence drone industry has sharply expanded its capabilities. From nano indoor scouts and ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) quadcopters to loitering munitions, swarm drones, interceptor drones and micro-turbojet systems, Indian firms are now building nearly every category of military drone modern warfare demands.

"The market is going to explode," says Smit Shah, president, Drone Federation of India (DFI). "For some time, the Indian armed forces will be the biggest customers. After Operation Sindoor, procurements are happening in almost all classes of drones. We believe more drones will be bought in the next one year than the last 15 years combined."

The New Global Demand

The surge is not being driven by India alone. Countries in Europe and West Asia are scouting for alternatives to Chinese, Turkish and Israeli systems, while also worrying about cyber security and geopolitical dependence. "West Asia is currently hot with demand," Shah says. "They don't want US, Israel, Iran, Turkey or even China drones because of cyber security issues. India and Russia are very good options right now."

The interest is translating into business. Bengaluru-based Zulu Defence Systems has entered Europe and the UAE through trial orders and joint venture talks, while Hyderabad propulsion maker Vector Technics plans offices in Europe and West Asia.

Prudhvi Raj Pakalapati, CEO of Vector Technics, says European buyers are trying to build "huge capacities" for interceptor drones. Rajkot-based Iindepro Dynamics is also seeing rising overseas enquiries from buyers pursuing a "China plus one" strategy.

The boom extends beyond aerial systems. Pune's Sagar Defence Engineering, which develops aerial and autonomous maritime systems, says demand has surged after Operation Sindoor. "Our order books are full of demand from West Asia and the Nato region," says founder Nikunj Parashar.

The company has developed underwater autonomous vehicles, maritime ISR systems and anti-submarine warfare platforms in collaboration with Boeing's Liquid Robotics.

Warfare Goes Autonomous

The biggest shift in warfare is no longer just hardware, but autonomy and software. Zulu Defence's autonomous platform links ISR, strike and logistics drones into a mesh network, allowing one ISR drone carrying an expensive sensor to guide multiple cheaper kamikaze drones. The company says it has tested swarms of up to 99 drones capable of distributing targets in real time.

Sai Pattabhiram, founder of Chennai-based Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies, says future warfare will move away from the one-drone-one-operator model.

"You will have one soldier operating maybe 10, 20 or even 50 drones," he says. Referring to Operation Sindoor, he adds: "What we did was very similar to what Gulf countries did in the current war — using costly equipment to neutralise cheap drones."

Modern conflict itself is shifting towards swarm warfare, says Sameer Joshi, CEO of NewSpace. "We are moving from an era of 'one platform, one target' to 'one swarm, one objective'. In modern conflict, mass and autonomy are the only ways to overcome sophisticated defences."

That line of thought shaped Sheshnaag-150. "It's essentially an 'attritable' long-range weapon, meant to be lost in battle, but cheap enough to deploy in the hundreds as a swarm and create combat mass over the target area," Joshi says.

Speed is becoming equally important. Vamsi Vikas of Raghu Vamsi Group says his company has developed both internal combustion engine and micro-turbojet drones in the same broad category as Iranian Shahed and Turkish systems. "The IC engine goes up to 500-600km and can even go up to 1,200km if you have a little bigger fuel capacity, it doesn't go very fast, just about 120kmph. The micro turbojet powered ones travel a shorter range but fly at speeds of around 400kmph," he says.

That speed, he argues, changes interception economics because defenders are forced to deploy expensive missiles against relatively cheap attack drones.

Push For Indigenous Tech

Indian military demand is also changing rapidly. Companies say the armed forces are no longer looking only for surveillance drones but large numbers, longer ranges and mission-specific systems.

Alvin Anthony, CEO of Bengaluru-based NextLeap Aeronautics, says requirements have shifted sharply after Operation Sindoor. "There is more interest in long-endurance and long-range drones. Earlier, we were talking about range capabilities of up to 10, 15 km but now the expectation is to have higher ranges," he says, adding that the Air Force now seeks a minimum range of 200km.

The propulsion race has become one of the hottest parts of the ecosystem. Vector Technics' Prudhvi Raj says the West Asia war has sharply boosted demand for interceptor drones and the motors powering them. "They were surprised to see that India is into drones in such a big way. The West is waking up to the potential of India's drone sector," he says.

For years, Indian drone firms were criticised for assembling imported kits using Chinese electronics and foreign autopilots. NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat says that model has reached its limits. "The problem with Indian companies is they are not designers. Most of them are copycat builders focused on assembly operations. The time has come for them to be more innovative and creative," he says.

Saraswat estimates that only around 20 of India's 200-plus drone manufacturers possess genuine design and development capability.

Others, however, argue that the ecosystem has matured rapidly.

"By and large, the defence drone sector has become self-reliant as it is able to completely function without depending on Chinese components or supply chain," says former DRDO chairman G Satheesh Reddy.

Still, some concerns remain around dependence on Israeli optics, sensors and combat-proven systems. "Their drones are proven in combat, so they are the ones getting the orders," says Vishal Saxena of ideaForge. "Some of our tech still comes from countries like Israel, which is embroiled in war, and so may not be in a position to supply to India for the next two years."

Cyber Security & The Next Battle

Cyber security and electronic warfare resilience are now becoming defining requirements. Pattabhiram says battlefield failures exposed vulnerabilities in imported systems.

"Indian drones didn't work too well during operations," he says. "Considering that, cyber security of the drone becomes extremely important."

His company has developed its own autopilot computing architecture and cyber-secure drones designed for GPS-denied environments.

Anthony says Indian startups are also entering advanced domains once dominated by Israeli and American firms, including visual-inertial navigation systems.

"Earlier, these technologies were basically built outside India by some Israeli companies and some American companies. But now we are seeing Indian startups also coming into this sector," he says.

Policy is beginning to support that transition. Companies point to the shift from "Make in India" to "Designed in India" in the draft DAP 2026 framework and stricter indigenous-content rules. "You have to keep the IP owned in India. That's a major change," says Kandasamy of Zulu Defence.

Wartime Industry

The armed forces remain cautious after earlier drone procurements failed operationally. But industry leaders say India cannot afford to wait for perfect systems while warfare is changing rapidly.

"Perfection is step two. Step one is massive procurement, massive inventory," says Saxena.

That tension — between urgency and perfection, imports and indigenous systems, assembly and deep-tech design — now defines India's drone industry.

The lesson from Ukraine, West Asia and Operation Sindoor is unmistakable: modern warfare increasingly depends on cheap mass, autonomy, resilience and speed. The result is an ecosystem no longer talking only about quadcopters and surveillance. It is talking about swarm warfare, cyber-secure autopilots, interceptor economics, micro-turbojets, visual navigation and thousand-kilometre strike capability.

"This is an opportunity," says Saraswat, "but if you don't make use of it now, you will miss the bus."

RV Maya 300
Twin-turbojet combat drone by Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Aerospace

Sheshnaag-150
Developed by NewSpace Research & Technologies, Bengaluru

Vamsi Vikas says his company has developed both internal combustion engine and micro-turbojet drones in the same broad category as Iranian Shahed and Turkish systems

Stark
Anti-tank kamikaze drone

Nagendran Kandasamy, co-founder and CEO, Zulu Defence Systems, says they have secured two emergency procurement contracts from the Indian Army for nearly 1,850 units of loitering systems and surveillance drones

Sai Pattabhiram, founder of Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies, says future warfare will move away from the one-drone-one-operator model to one where a single soldier would operate maybe 10, 20 or even 50 drones

WHY ANTI-DRONE SYSTEMS MATTER NOW

Cheap attack drones, loitering munitions and swarms used in Op Sindoor and the West Asia war have made counter-drone systems a wartime priority

- **Biggest challenge** | Ensuring different systems operate together under unified architecture
- **Friendly-fire concerns** | During Op Sindoor, Indian forces faced challenges distinguishing friendly drones from hostile ones

> **"If anti-drone technology is not unified, our drones would start taking down our own during conflicts**
>
> —**Kiran Raju,** INDRAJAAL FOUNDER

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT SERVICE
Transport House, Outside Jamalpur gate, Jamalpur, Ahmedabad 380022, Gujarat, India.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) for Selection of Consultant For Development of Bus Ports and Multimodal Transport Hubs on Public Private Partnership Mode in Ahmedabad (2nd Call).
Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS) invites proposals from duly qualified interested parties for Development of Bus Ports and Multimodal Transport Hubs on Public Private Partnership Mode in Ahmedabad (2nd Call). Interested parties may download RFP from website **www.nprocure.amc.com** from **Dt. 27.05.2026.**

Sd/- Dy. Municipal Commissioner/ Transport Manager,

BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.
H.O.:- DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX, P.O. - BIHAR VETERINARY COLLEGE, PATNA-800014(BIHAR)
E-Mail: comfed.ops14@gmail.com, Website: www.sudha.coop

Comfed:Ops:155:2740 — **TENDER NOTICE** — Date: 25/05/2026

Bihar State Milk Cooperative Federation Ltd., Patna (COMFED) invites sealed bids under a **Two-Bid System** (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) for the collection, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of approximately 4030 MT of all categories of Plastic waste i.e. LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE/SLP plastic waste (including milk poly pouches, plastic cups, PET bottles, etc.) generated at Milk parlour and other identified sources, in compliance with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements under Plastic Waste Management. Rule 2016, and as amended up to 2022.
The scope of work shall be executed through a sustainable waste management mechanism across Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi NCR, North-Eastern States, and the northern part of West Bengal, for **FY 2025-26.**
The bidders are advised to download the detailed terms and conditions and operational requirements from our website: **www.sudha.coop.**

S.No	Particulars	Scheduled Date & Time
1.	Date of Publication of Tender	27.05.2026
2.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	02.06.2026
3.	Publication of revised Tender	03.06.2026
4.	Last Date and time of bid submission	12.06.2026 up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Technical Opening date and time	15.06.2026 at 3:30 P.M.
6.	Financial Bid Opening date and time	Shall be intimated later after evaluation of Technical Bid.

The bids will be opened on 15.06.2026 at COMFED Patna, 3:30 P.M. in the presence of bidders.
Managing Director

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: contracts@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Tender No.: BMRCL/Phase-2/Reach-6 UG/Multipurpose Hall/RT01/2026/149
Date: 28.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Managing Director/BMRCL, the General Manager (Contracts) invites e-tenders on CPP Portal from eligible applicants, who fulfil the prescribed Eligibility Cum Qualification Criteria (EQC) for the work of **"Construction of Multipurpose Hall and Officers Sports Club for Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department at R.A. Mundkur Training Academy Premises, Bannerghatta Road, Jayanagar for Bangalore Metro Rail Project, Phase-2."** Estimated Cost of Work: **INR 12.89 Crores,** Tender fees: **INR 59,000/-.** Tender Security (EMD): **INR 15.00 Lakhs,** Download of tender documents on eProcurement Portal: **from 29.05.2026 to 29.06.2026 (up to 3.00 PM),** Period of submission of e-tenders (online only): **23.06.2026 (From 10.00 AM) to 29.06.2026 (up to 3.00 PM),** Date and time of opening of e-tenders (Technical Bid): **30.06.2026 at 3.30 PM.,** For more details, visit our e-tendering website: **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** from **29.05.2026** onwards. The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) will also be available in BMRCL website **www.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- General Manager (Contracts)

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited
An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 & ISO 50001 Certified Company
Regd. Office: P.O.Narmadanagar - 392015, Dist.: Bharuch (Gujarat), India
CIN: L24110GJ1976PLC002903 Website: www.gnfc.in

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Tender ID	Name of the Work
308070	ARC for Industrial Canteen Services at GNFC Bharuch, Gujarat

Prebid meeting will be held on 03.06.2026 at Industrial Canteen at 15.00 hrs at GNFC Bharuch
Last date & time for receipts of bids for the above tender is 10/06/2026 upto 17.00 hrs
For E-Tender, please logon to https://www.tender.nprocure.com
Contact :- Email ID: uspanwar@gnfc.in, Phone no. (02642) 20-2621

KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, No.49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-1. Ph: 080-22258131/32/33, **E-mail: murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com info@ksiidc.com Website: https://ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in**

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE ON RENT / LEASE
An office space measuring **13,863 sq. ft.** situated on the **6th Floor, South Block**, in a modern office complex located at **IT Park, Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru**, is available for occupation on a **monthly rental basis**.
Property Details:
- **Location:** IT Park, Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru
- **Floor:** 6th Floor-South Block
- **Area:** 13,863 Sq. Ft.
- **Usage:** Office Space
- **Availability:** Immediate

For more details, please contact **Deputy General Manager (Mobile No.98458-33566).**
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (P&A)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARMENT Office of The Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S, Division, Haveri
Sl.No.RDW&SD/Haveri/PB-4/Tender:03/2026-27/ 206
Date : 27-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(1) Last Date for Tender queries/ Clarifications : **02-06-2026** at : 11:00 hours (2) Date of Pre bid meeting at Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S Division, Haveri : **03-06-2026** at: 11:00 hours (3) Request of Blank Tender Documents and Receipt of completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement from : **08-06-2026** at: 17:00 hours (4) Date of Technical Bid Opening (If possible) : **09-06-2026** @ 17:30 hours (5) Date of Financial Bid Opening (If possible) : **10-06-2026** @ 10:00 hours
Indent No :- (1) Shifting of Devagiri MVS Existing Jackwell at IR to Chowdammann Tank of Haveri Taluka Haveri District. (RWSSD/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT10092)
The blank tender documents can be downloaded through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the date of hosting the tender.
DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/114/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S Division, Haveri

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Joint Commissioner, BCCC, Bengaluru–560001
No.: BCCC/TEND/14/2026-27 — Date: 26.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Commissioner, BCCC through Advertisements Department invites bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible licensed / registered advertisers with BCCC / any other Bengaluru City Corporation for assignment of commercial advertisement rights in 2-Zones in accordance with the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules 2025. All interested bidders shall submit their bids electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

Tender Notification No	BCCC/TEND/14/2026-27
Date from which bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)	27.05.2026 From 3:00 p.m.
Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue	--------
Last date for seeking clarification if any	30.05.2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform	06.06.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.
Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical bid & Technical Evaluation	08.06.2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial bid of Technically qualified bidders (if possible)	Immediately after technical evaluation.
Contact person for queries	Joint Commissioner-1 Mobile: 9480685619 Email: bcccjccvr@gmail.com
Place of opening of tenders and address for communication	Office of the Joint Commissioner-1, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), Joint Commissioner-1 Office, Residency Road, Mayohall, Bengaluru–560001
EMD Amount	Rs. 20 Lakhs (out of which Rs. 16 Lakhs as Bank Guarantee and rest Rs. 4 Lakhs paid in eProcurement Portal) for each Zone wise bid.

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal system only in the manner described in this tender on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner-1, Bengaluru Central City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ
ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ(ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ)
ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
(ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಆಸುಇ 62 ಡಿಸಭೆ 2026, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.05.2026
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPAR/2026-27/SE0068, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಸಿಆಸುಇ(ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ) ವಿಭಾಗದಿಂದ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧ, ರಾಜಭವನ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ವಚನ ಸ್ವೀಕಾರ ಮುಂತಾದ ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಾಮಿಯಾನ, ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅನುಭವಸ್ಥ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅನುಭವಸ್ಥ/ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ/ಷರತ್ತಿಗಳಿಗನುಸಾರ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. (ಠೇವಣಿ) ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2,00,000/- ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ವಿಧಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
1) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.06.2026ರ ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಆಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22033440 ಅಥವಾ 22033208 ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/-
(ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ಮೂರ್ತಿ)
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಸಿಆಸುಇ(ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ)(ಪ್ರ)
ಮಾಸಾಸರದ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/K24/ಬಂಐಎ/26-27

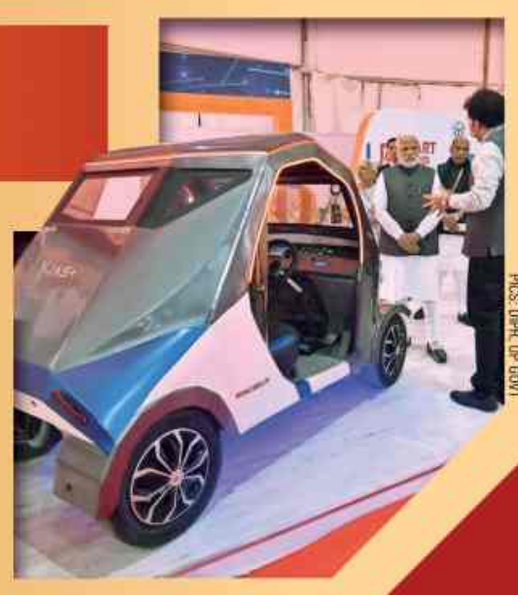
Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur
NO.05/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM/AE-1&2&3/376/26-27
Date: 26.05.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the One Cover and Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from Class-IV & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of Gubbi, Kunigal Koratagere, Sira, Tumkur, Tiptur and Turuvekere Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.16.37 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.40,930/- and Maximum Tender Amount Rs.79.82 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.1,59,640/-)
Particulars & Details: 1. Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal **05-06-2026** Upto 5.00PM. 2. Pre Bid Meeting Date: **01-06-2026** at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. 3. Technical Opening of Bids: **06-06-2026** at 5.30 PM onwards. 4. Financial Opening of Bids **08-06-2026** at 5.30 PM onwards.
For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Sd/-(Sri K M Kumaraswamy)
Executve Engineer,
RDW&S, Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/84/KSMCA/2026-27

UTTAR PRADESH'S

DEFINING TRANSFORMATION OVER



PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT.

YEARS

GOLDEN ERA OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

Over the past nine years, UP government has pursued sustained reforms to position the state as a leading destination for investment and industrial growth. Progressive de-regulation, and investor-friendly policies have reduced barriers and improved Ease of Doing Business. Sector-specific policies in electronics, defence manufacturing, data centres, textiles, and food processing have drawn domestic and global players alike. Major investor summits and groundbreaking ceremonies have translated commitments into on-ground projects, generating employment and strengthening infrastructure. Improved connectivity, reliable power, and proactive governance have together accelerated industrialisation and reinforced Uttar Pradesh's reputation as a credible, competitive investment hub. A notable pillar of this push is the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, designed to boost indigenous defence manufacturing. Spanning multiple nodes, it has attracted significant investments, encouraged MSME participation, and positioned the state as an emerging hub for defence manufacturing.

Generated private investment proposals worth over ₹50 lakh crore

These investments will create 1.10 crore job opportunities in the private sector

Followed the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, Transform', implementing 34 sectoral policies and creating the single-window system Nivesh Sarathi

Organised four groundbreaking ceremonies that have translated intent into action, bringing projects worth over ₹15 lakh crore to life across Uttar Pradesh

Steady reforms enabled Uttar Pradesh to surpass expectations under the Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy 2017, achieving its ambitious ₹20,000 crore investment target for five years in just three years

Progressive reforms, including the Single Window System, Nivesh Mitra 3.0, and wide-ranging de-regulation, have positioned UP as a trusted destination for global investors

Attracted FDI worth ₹17,004 crore

The number of factories has doubled to 31,459

Systematic planning established Film City, Toy Park, Apparel Park, Handicraft Park, and a Logistics Hub in the Yamuna Expressway area

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

A thought for today

Suppose the stars are just our grief reflected back to us

VICTORIA CHANG, poem

Yin & Yang Of Quad

India needs more FDI from Chinese companies, while doing more for Indo-Pacific. Learn from Southeast Asia

Speak softly and carry a big stick' is an adage attributed to Theodore Roosevelt. With Quad foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi this week, the India-US-Japan-Australia grouping appeared to be channelling the spirit of the former US president. The meeting resulted in a series of initiatives in areas such as critical minerals, energy security, and maritime surveillance. There's also a plan to build a port in Fiji. Of course, the elephant in the room is China, which was quick to denounce the Quad meeting as an exclusive clique.

India, for its part, has been clear that Quad is not directed against any third country. That's clever. Managing China requires India to walk a tricky tightrope, juggling historical territorial issues, economic interdependencies, and regional strategic questions. This is where India needs its own version of 'speak softly and carry a big stick'. A sweet spot that smartly combines economic enticements and strategic national security guardrails. In March, GOI approved Press Note 2 to allow non-controlling stakes of up to 10% in Indian firms, without prior govt approval. It also pitched a 60-day expedited approval process for investments in priority manufacturing sectors. Both with an eye to accelerating FDI from China.

Note, China has never been a major source of FDI for India – a mere $2.5bn between April 2000 and Dec 2025. It's not that Chinese companies are shy of investing. But the fact is, despite recent loosening of rules, India still isn't attractive enough for large investments, especially in manufacturing – from poor infra to weak enforcement of contracts. And then there are the soft issues – ease of living and working, quality urban spaces, and recreational facilities that entice foreign companies to set up shop. Anecdotally, Japanese businesses don't invest in countries without quality golf courses.

Without serious Chinese FDI inflows in non-strategic sectors, China is more likely to view India from the prism of regional strategic calculus, where our interests don't often align. But higher FDI inflows will force Beijing to think in terms of win-win strategic partnership. Conversely, without a fast-growing economy, India can't do more for the Indo-Pacific anyway, when it comes to tamping down on China's hegemonic tendencies. New Delhi should learn from Southeast Asia – Chinese FDI inflows into Asean rose from less than $4bn in 2010 to $17bn in 2023, despite all their differences. Even Philippines, with its strident opposition to China in South China Sea, is selectively receiving Chinese investments in its infra projects. Time India steps up its own game.

Look Up. Stop

The stars whisper, why the heck are we killing each other? Our borders are invisible from space

Growing up in a Manipur village, Ronaldo Laishram would spend nights looking up at the stars. Children have done this for a long time. Maybe even those who roamed African savannas where Homo sapiens evolved. Maybe even the questions that the stars make us whisper have remained the same: What is all of this, and what am I doing in it? Now leading a research team at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Laishram can attempt the answers in an epistemic way. He's found a 12.6bn year old galaxy protocluster and chosen to name it after Manipur's beloved Loktak Lake. Along with this stark reflection: "Earth is very small…and here we are killing each other."

Scientists arrive at this perspective, both peering into the far corners of space from down here, and looking back at Earth from up there. On one side, Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell called the profound cognitive shift experienced while viewing Earth from space, "instant global consciousness". On the other, when Voyager 1 took the famous 'Pale Blue Dot' image of this planet in 1990, from some 6.4bn km away, it made Carl Sagan call out the terrible absurdity of inhabitants of one corner of this pixel visiting endless cruelties on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner. The Subaru and James Webb telescopes that Laishram works with today are capturing different data, with the same message. "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us." The borders we kill for are invisible from star distance. They don't exist in any cosmic sense.

Plus, for all our searching, we have yet to find life anywhere else. Meaning, a) what we have here is extraordinarily rare, and b) nobody will be coming to rebuild what our wars destroy. But if thinking like this begins with gazing at the stars, and we can no longer see them in our cities, are even the seeds of peace becoming an endangered species?

From 'Euw!' to awe

How do cockroaches feel about CJP fuss?

Bachi Karkaria

In 1916, columnist Don Marquis created 'archy' the cockroach. A free-verse poet in its past life, it clambered on the newspaper's typewriter at night to write about surviving New York with mehitabel, an alley cat who fancied herself to be Cleopatra reincarnated. He couldn't master the shift key, so archy wrote minus capitals. By merging the two, we can say that reviled roach has been reborn as that queen who reduced emperors to jelly. The CJP, 'archy-tect' of the current brouhaha, has 'mastered' the 'capital'. Dilli is trying to stamp on, spray and generally respond like aam janata does when a real cockroach crosses its path.

So I used what Parsis call '*kasari na kaan*' (super-sharp cockroach ears) to listen in on my creepy, un-evictable tenants. Bro-roaches preened at the newfound attention like first-time MLAs. Nymphs squealed in delight like the SoBo kind at getting a mention from stand-ups. A litigious type, long antennae quivering, demanded, 'How dare that upstart CJP exploit our assiduously built brand without paying a crumb? Let's sue it for ID theft/copyright violation/cultural appropriation.'

erratica

Supporting this 'fight' not instinctive 'flight', a gully boy rapped *a la* Ranveer Singh, '*Kaun bola, mujhse na ho payega?/ Kaun bola?/Kaun bola?!/Ab apna* time *aa gaya*!' Dissing those who said the crushed can't do it, he proposed a Youth Front. 'Ours will be a party with a difference. We don't change colours when crossing the floor; we've retained our brown-black ideology for millennia. Plus, we never claim to end corruption while feeding off everything we can.'

A scarred veteran crawled out to drawl, '*Oi, bachcha*, cockroaches and *netas* are same-to-shame. We survived every extinction era; they swagger out of every national crisis. We squeeze through impossible gaps; they squeeze into ideological opposites. We thrive in the dark; they thrive by keeping public in the dark. We both scurry away when the light is switched on. *And*,' he asked smugly, 'what do we both fear most?' Everyone shuddered, '*Chappals!*'

***

Alec Smart said, "In Gymkhanas today, there's more weight-throwing than weight-lifting."

Yes SIR, But Also No SIR

Good that SC recognised voting as a constitutional right. But, for that to have meaning, ensuring inclusion in voter rolls must be EC's positive duty. And the burden of justifying exclusion must shift to it. The judgment doesn't address that

Aditya Prasanna Bhattacharya

Supreme Court yesterday upheld EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The judgment answers four questions: whether EC had the power to conduct SIR, whether that power was exercised proportionately, whether the procedure violated the statutory scheme, and whether EC can scrutinise citizenship of voters. On each count, the court ruled in EC's favour, except to say EC can't be the final arbiter of citizenship. So, Bihar SIR stands, and what SC has sanctioned will now be repeated across the country.

On a positive note, this is the first time that SC, in a majority opinion bearing directly on the franchise of individual voters in direct elections, has recognised the right to vote as a "constitutional right", not merely a statutory one. This is a welcome departure from the orthodox position. For decades, SC treated voting as a mere statutory right, giving Parliament and EC wide discretion over its content and conditions.

But this elevation is immediately drained of consequence. The court holds that compliances, such as documentary verification, do not, by themselves, infringe the right to vote. The relevant question, so the court says, is only whether compliances are so onerous that they negate the right altogether. This is the same deferential standard that a statutory right would attract.

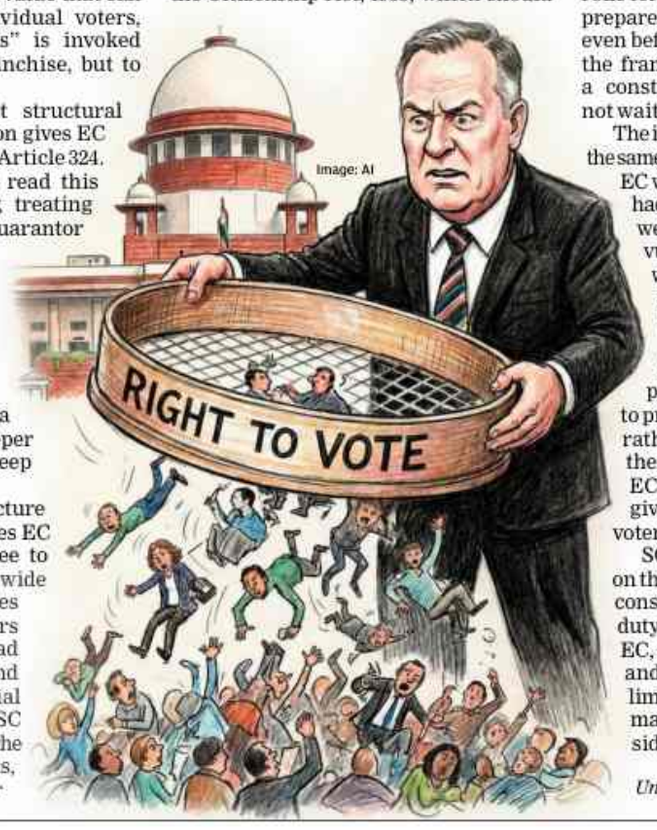
A constitutional right, on the other hand, should do much more. It should impose a positive duty on EC to ensure inclusion, and shift the burden of justifying exclusion onto it. It should recognise that the right to vote is impaired not only when it is abolished, but also when citizens are made to navigate burdensome or uncertain procedures to retain it. The judgment does none of this.

This matters because SC deploys another constitutional principle – free and fair elections – as the primary justification for SIR. In Bihar, approximately 47L voters were excluded from the final roll. EC justified this in the name of electoral integrity. SC accepted this argument, relying on EC's "institutional expertise". There is, of course, no dispute that clean electoral rolls are essential to electoral legitimacy. But when integrity of the roll is treated as a value that can override rights of individual voters, "free and fair elections" is invoked not to safeguard the franchise, but to justify its curtailment.

This is a persistent structural problem. The Constitution gives EC enormous powers under Article 324. Over the years, SC has read this provision very liberally, treating EC as the institutional guarantor of free and fair elections. But empowering the guarantor of elections is not the same as protecting the rights of voters. An EC which has a lot of power but no responsibility to protect a voter, is akin to a gatekeeper whose only job is to keep people out.

On the legal architecture of SIR, SC effectively gives EC a blank cheque. It is free to conduct sweeping, state-wide re-verification exercises whenever it considers necessary, with broad procedural discretion, and only the softest judicial constraints. While SC repeatedly acknowledges the importance of safeguards, all it asks is whether some safeguards exist on paper, and not whether they are robust enough to protect the franchise.

One area where SC does draw a line is citizenship. It holds that while EC may conduct a limited inquiry into citizenship for electoral purposes, it cannot finally determine who is or is not a citizen. Exclusion from the roll just means inability to vote, not loss of citizenship. If a person's name has been deleted from the 2003 roll because EC thinks they are not a valid citizen, it must refer the matter to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955, which should decide the issue before the next election. This prevents SIR from becoming a backdoor citizenship determination exercise. Whether this will work in practice remains to be seen.



The deeper difficulty is that the judgment departs from the historical logic of Indian democracy. The story of universal adult franchise in India is one of inclusion. The franchise expanded from 3% under Government of India Act, 1919 to 20% under the 1935 Act, and then to universal adult suffrage under the Constitution. The preliminary electoral rolls for the first general elections were prepared under the draft Constitution even before any statute existed, because the framers regarded the franchise as a constitutional necessity that could not wait for ordinary legislation.

The institutional design of EC reflected the same commitment. A single, centralised EC was preferred because the drafters had discovered that provincial govts were attempting to disenfranchise vulnerable groups. The Commission was given constitutional status not to create an efficient bureaucracy but to prevent exclusion.

This judgment appears to invert that founding logic. It places the burden on the citizen to prove their place in the electorate, rather than on the state to justify their removal. It privileges the EC's constitutional power while giving short shrift to the individual voter's constitutional right.

SC reached the right conclusion on the status of the right to vote. But a constitutional right that imposes no duty on the state, shifts no burden onto EC, and melts away the moment "free and fair elections" is invoked, is of limited use to millions of voters, who may find themselves on the wrong side of the next revision exercise.

The writer is a research scholar at University of Cambridge

East Bengal, Arsenal & What Football Still Means To Us

Yes, the game is now a shiny product that's marketed. Yes, following EPL teams shows colonisation of our imagination. But, when teams your heart beats for become champs, you feel something that can't be bought

Arghya Sengupta

There is a specific type of joy experienced only by supporters of clubs that win something, after a very long time. This is joy tinged with disbelief, always panicked, as though it could slip away, any moment. East Bengal and Arsenal – league champions in the same season, after 22 years. Mere coincidence? The mathematics of this is so precise as to feel deliberate, as though some bored god of sporting symmetry shook off his ennui and decided it was time for the wait to end. For many like me, it feels too good to be true. Is it real, or will it, somehow, be taken away?

East Bengal comes first, for thousands of us, the way things inherited, rather than chosen, always do. The red and gold was my mother's club before it was mine. The Maidan in the monsoon, Sukumar Samajpati steaming down the flank. Syed Nayeemuddin coaching the club to glory. Chima Okorie scoring for fun. Krishanu Dey's wizardry. Names spoken with reverence usually reserved for deities. You don't choose a club like this. It chooses you through blood.

Arsenal arrived later, on cable television, yet another gift of Empire: the ability to beam the English game into living rooms across former territories. Nicolas Anelka moved through defences with the arrogance of a man who knew he was better than his peers. Tony Adams put his head on the line on every corner and free kick. This wasn't about Empire, broadcasting rights, or a new global order. It was about the beautiful game capable of providing joy like little else could. I was hooked.

This is why the Arsenal title this season produced for me something the East Bengal title did not. A charge of feeling arriving from somewhere oceanic and remote. At one level, this was genuinely sad – not personal sadness, but the structural sadness of an Indian footballing culture so underfunded, so administratively catastrophic, so consistently failed, that some of its own supporters found their deepest emotional satisfaction from a franchise 5,000 miles away.

Indian football did not fail its fans through bad luck. It failed them through decades of extraordinary institutional indifference. Federation politics as blood sport. Infra an afterthought, player safety and welfare, incidental. This is why a generation of fans took to Arsenal, and other Premier League clubs as if they were our own. It was never Arsenal, it was always "us". East Bengal slowly faded from active *adda*, though never from memory.

This is the colonised imagination doing what it was built to do. Premier League's emotional reach into the Global South is not an accident of quality, but a consequence of money spent on broadcast deals, and the long shadow of English cultural hegemony. Understanding this changed nothing for me.

Martinelli ran through and scored on the break, and everything else seemed irrelevant. East Bengal's renaissance, too, did not happen by chance. A corporate group arrived with the energy of capital that has identified undervalued assets. ISL's project – the franchise model, the marquee signings, the television production values that no longer look like they're assembled during a power cut – follows the same logic. Which is that the only way to make Indian football legible to modern sporting gaze is to purchase that legibility from the global marketplace.

But there was a version of Indian football, and football everywhere, in which the game was not a product seeking a market, but a community seeking expression. In which Maidan derbies weren't 'content' for streaming platforms, but secular ritual, a way of being Bengali in public – loud, unmanageable and quarrelsome.

Similarly, Nick Hornby went to his first Arsenal game because his father took him – the years that followed, an extended consequence of one afternoon. It isn't as if these don't happen in modern-day football. It's just that they're mere sideshows to the spectacle of a global financial project to sell video games and merchandise, in which 22 players also kick a ball around, producing magic.

There is a song from *Dhanni Meye* – a Bengali movie classic of rival football clubs, lives lived in argumentative proximity – that describes what sport actually is beneath the economics. It's about community as a site of belonging.

Can sport still be centred around parents and children walking to grounds that belong to them or fellow supporters – not to private equity – in cities where the club is woven into local grammar, not parachuted in by franchise agreement? The honest answer is that capital won this argument a few decades ago.

What remains is to find inside the sponsored kit and broadcast deal, human moments money can underwrite, but not manufacture. That astonishment when David Raya made yet another impossible save against West Ham United. The moment of brilliance from Edmund Lalrindika in Kolkata derby. The collective chant of East Bengal supporters.

After 22 years, somewhere in London, somewhere in India, a father or a mother is explaining to their child the momentousness of this occasion, passing down something that cannot be bought. At least, not yet.

The writer is an East Bengal and Arsenal fan, in no particular order

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Laughter is anti-inflammatory. Crying is regulating. Hugging is immunoprotective. Singing is vagal toning. Dancing is neurogenic. Joy is a biological necessity.

Mark Hyman, longevity specialist

When One Flew Over The Gilded Cage

Farida Khanam

An ordinary moment can sometimes open the door to an extraordinary insight. This happened recently when one of my birds, a small bajri tota, suddenly flew out of its cage.

It all happened within seconds. The bird managed to open the cage door and disappeared before i could react. I had always believed that such a small bird would not be able to fly far or fast. But reality proved otherwise. I stood there, looking from one tree to another, trying to trace its path, hoping to catch a glimpse of it again. But it was gone.

In that brief experience, it felt as though i had witnessed a small example of a much larger truth. The image of the bird escaping its cage brought to mind the condition of the human soul. Just as the bird had been confined within a cage, the soul exists within the human body, contained and limited. Over time, we become so accustomed to this condition that we begin to assume it is permanent. The physical world feels real and final. We live as though what we see is all that exists.

Yet, life gently reminds us that this is not the whole story. Quran points to this reality in a profound yet simple way: "Every soul shall taste death" (Quran 3:185). The verse does not describe death as an end, but as a transition, an experience that every soul must undergo. In another place, it is said: "You were heedless of this; now We have removed from you your covering, and your sight today is sharp" (Quran 50:22). This suggests that what appears hidden in this world becomes clear beyond it.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The bird's sudden flight mirrored this idea. Its disappearance did not mean that it ceased to exist. It simply moved beyond my field of vision. In the same way, when a person dies, the soul does not vanish; it passes into a realm that lies beyond human perception.

Despite all advances in science and technology, the boundary between the seen and the unseen remains intact. In fact, such moments invite us to notice something we often overlook – that life is not merely about possession, but about passage. We hold things for a while, we experience them, and then they move on. Whether it is a bird, a moment, or even life itself, everything is part of a larger flow.

They also quietly remind us of the need for preparedness. If death is a transition rather than an end, then it calls for conscious living. Quran states: "Whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it" (Quran 99:7). This points to accountability, where human actions carry lasting significance. What we do here shapes what follows beyond.

Such moments invite us to rethink our assumptions. They encourage us to live with greater awareness, humility, and purpose. If life in this world is temporary, then our actions here carry a deeper significance; they are part of a larger, continuing story.

In the end, what appears to us as an ending may, in fact, be the beginning of another phase, hidden from our senses.

The writer is chairperson, Centre for Peace and Spirituality International

NEET paper leak: CBI arrests doctor, Pune physics teacher

Both Remanded In CBI Custody For Five Days

Mohammed Akhef & Gitesh Shelke | TNN

ANI

Arrested accused Tejas Harshad Kumar Shah being brought to court, in New Delhi on Wednesday

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar/Pune: Following multiple rounds of questioning, CBI arrested Latur-based paediatrician Dr Manoj Shirure and Pune-based physics teacher Tejas Harshadkumar Shah in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak, taking the total number of individuals apprehended in the case to 13.

A Delhi court Wednesday remanded Shirure and Shah in CBI custody for five days. Special judge Vidya Prakash allowed CBI's plea seeking their further custodial interrogation. They will now be produced before the court on June 1. Co-accused P V Kulkarni and Shivraj Raghunath Motegaonkar were also remanded to 14-day judicial custody.

CBI officers said Shirure, who had been questioned over the past week, was one of five doctors suspected of paying for access to leaked papers for their relatives.

According to the agency, he played a "key role" in facilitating three students — including Motegaonkar's son — in obtaining chemistry questions from alleged NEET paper setter Kulkarni. Motegaonkar runs Renukai Chemistry Classes in Maharashtra's Latur.

Shah, who has been associated with Pune-based Dr Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy since the 2021-22 academic year, was allegedly involved in circulating leaked physics questions. CBI clarified that the earlier remand report incorrectly identified him as a student. According to the probe agency, Shah received the questions from the now suspended headmistress of a Pune school, Manisha Havaldar, who was arrested on May 22. CBI probe has uncovered WhatsApp chats and financial transactions linking Shah to Havaldar's husband. "Shah's number was saved as 'God' in Havaldar's phone. He allegedly received leaked physics questions from Havaldar and passed them on to co-accused Motegaonkar, who then shared them with Shirure," a CBI officer said.

(With Koushiki Saha in New Delhi)

Top court to EC: Send all deleted names to home ministry within 4 weeks

▶ Continued from page 1

On people deleted from voter lists because of 'doubtful citizenship', SC directed EC to send all such names to the competent authority (home ministry) within four weeks for adjudication of their citizenship under Citizenship Act, 1955.

The order comes amid a tougher scrutiny of citizenship claims of many and the tightening of borders, and details gathered by EC can potentially help the home ministry with detection and deportation of aliens who may have illegally crossed over from Bangladesh. "The competent authority shall take the necessary decision in accordance with law, preferably before the next parliamentary, assembly, local body elections, whichever is earlier, after giving notice and an opportunity of hearing to the deleted individuals, if any," the bench said, adding that if they were found to be Indian citizens, their names would be included in electoral rolls.

On the need to conduct the SIR exercise in Bihar that petitioners had questioned, the bench said as it was being carried out after a lapse of 23 years and given the nature of problems it intended to address and the scale of exercise, coupled with procedural safeguards, EC cannot be held to have carried out the mandate arbitrarily. The challenge to the number of documents required to be produced by voters during SIR scrutiny was also rejected by CJI-led bench, which said, "The classification of documents, including the exclusion of certain categories (apart from Aadhaar Card, which was directed to be included by SC on Sept 8 last year), is based on intelligible criteria having a direct nexus with the objective of ensuring the integrity of the electoral roll."

However, the bench sounded a note of caution to EC over not lightly interfering with existing names in electoral rolls and said every revision of electoral rolls must be carried out with circumspection and strict adherence to procedure laid down by law.

In an interesting preface to the judgment, CJI quoted political scientist Bernard Manin to say, "Before any representative government can count votes, it must first know whose votes may be counted. The story of democracy is therefore not only a story of voting, but also of identifying the persons entitled to participate in the choice of government. The electoral roll is the legal record of that political community. For this reason, disputes concerning electoral rolls are never merely administrative."

'TDS can't be denied even if return not filed'

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Mumbai: In a peculiar case, Income Tax officials, during reassessment, considered the entire income reflected in Form 26AS as taxable in the hands of a Mumbai-based taxpayer, but gave no credit for tax deducted at source (TDS).

The Mumbai bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has now ruled that once income reflected in Form 26AS is taxed, the Income Tax department cannot deny TDS credit merely because no I-T return was filed.

The tribunal observed that granting TDS credit is "consequential and co-terminus" with assessment of the corresponding income and that taxes already deducted and deposited with the govt cannot be denied on "technical grounds".

The case involved a Navi Mumbai resident, Soman, whose assessment for FY 2010-11 was reopened under Section 147 on the basis of information in the annual information return (AIR) and Form 26AS showing certain receipts in his hand. The ITAT order did not specify the nature of the income.

Since Soman had neither filed an I-T return nor responded to notices under Section 148, the I-T officer completed the assessment ex-parte and treated the entire receipts in Form 26AS as taxable income.

The taxpayer successfully argued before the ITAT that once the receipts were brought to tax, denial of TDS credit would amount to double taxation and unjust enrichment of the revenue.

Court: Even skill-based games acquire character of betting

▶ Continued from page 1

Responding to the stand taken by the companies that they operate skill-based games, the bench said that even skill-based games acquire the character of betting and gambling for GST purposes once money is staked on uncertain outcomes. The issue was first challenged in Karnataka high court, which passed an order in favour of gaming companies. HC had said that rummy was a game of skill and that a company offering it was not supplying actionable claims in the manner alleged by tax department. The apex court, however, set aside HC's order.

10 Indian sailors onboard tanker seized by Iran in July '25 released

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Ten Indian sailors arrested by Iran after their oil tanker was intercepted near Jask Port in July 2025 have been released following "sustained diplomatic efforts," the Directorate General of Shipping said.

The sailors were crew members of the MV Harbour Phoenix, which is listed in shipping records as a 32-year-old Palau-flagged oil products tanker registered to UAE-based Harbour Phoenix Shipping.

The vessel, operating mainly in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, was seized by Iranian forces over alleged diesel smuggling charge. The shipping directorate said arrangements were being made for the crew's early return to India.

It gave no further details on the reason for the arrests or about the vessel.

SC upholds K'taka, TN govts' ban on online betting

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New Delhi: Highlighting that addiction to online betting and gambling is creating disturbance in society and damaging social tranquility, Supreme Court on Wednesday held that the govt can take decision to ban such activities to protect public health and online companies can't claim violation of fundamental right to practice any trade or business.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan upheld the decisions taken by the Tamil Nadu govt and Karnataka govt to prohibit and criminalise online games played for money or stakes. The court allowed the plea of the state govts which approached the SC after the respective high courts quashed the laws passed by them to ban online betting and gambling.

The bench said that Madras and Karnataka High Court erred in giving narrow interpretation to the law. Tamil Nadu first brought in an ordinance in November 2020, later replaced by the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021. Karnataka also framed the law on the same line but Karnataka High Court in 2022 struck down provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act 2021 that prohibited and criminalised online gambling and betting. The law had banned all forms of wagering or betting, except for lottery and horse racing. Similar law was passed by Tamil Nadu which was quashed by the high court.

Reviving the two laws, the bench said "When the element of betting and gambling enters the picture, the nature of the game ceases to be of relevance."

Assam clears UCC bill, Himanta calls it RSS-BJP driven social reform

Guwahati: Assam assembly passed Wednesday BJP-led NDA govt's uniform civil code (UCC) bill by voice vote, paving way for a common legal framework mandating monogamy, gender equality in inheritance and registration of live-in relationships, while outlawing polygamy and bigamy, **report Kangkan Kalita & Prabin Kalita**. Passed after a stormy debate and opposition protests, bill will now be sent for President's assent as it deals with subjects on Concurrent List. Assam becomes fourth state after Goa, Uttarakhand and Gujarat to approve a common civil code.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma described bill as a major social reform rooted in BJP and RSS ideology. "Had I not been a BJP CM and a swayamsevak of RSS, probably I would not have been able to bring UCC to assembly," he said, adding he felt "proud" critics described it as BJP and RSS agenda.

Ebola scare triggers airport surveillance, quarantine measures across the country

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New Delhi/Ahmedabad: Health authorities have intensified airport surveillance, traveller monitoring and quarantine measures after suspected Ebola cases surfaced in Bengaluru and Gujarat, though no Ebola infection has been confirmed in India so far.

A 28-year-old Ugandan woman who had been isolated in Bengaluru over suspected Ebola infection has tested negative for the virus, bringing relief amid heightened global concern over fresh outbreaks reported in parts of Africa.

File photo

APHO teams are directly contacting travellers arriving from affected countries and isolating even mildly symptomatic individuals

Officials said Airport Health Organisation (APHO) teams are directly contacting travellers arriving from affected countries and isolating even mildly symptomatic individuals as a precautionary measure. "Even if someone reports a slight headache, we do not want to take any chances and are keeping such persons in isolation," an official said, adding that samples are being sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) for testing.

Officials said the sample of a suspected Gujarat case has been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for tests and results are expected in 24 to 48 hours.

The Gujarat case involves a 37-year-old man, Amuri Lokula, who reportedly travelled from the African continent and Bangladesh before arriving in Mumbai and later Vadodara for business purposes with two associates. He was quarantined at Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

According to health officials, the man developed fever, cold and cough symptoms and was initially admitted to a private hospital in Vadodara before being shifted to the special Ebola ward set up at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, after his travel history emerged during screening.

Authorities said his two associates and a doctor who came in professional contact with him have all been placed under observation as a precautionary measure.

Karnataka's Model of Women Empowerment

'Gruha Lakshmi': A Beacon of Dignity in Women's Lives

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Because I am a transgender, society always looked at me differently. After enduring years of hardship and pain, it was the Karnataka Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme that became my support. With the money I receive every month, I now run a fruit shop and live with dignity. Those who once mocked us now lovingly call me 'Akka'..." These are the heartfelt words of Sapna from Kalaburagi.

For lakhs of oppressed women like Sapna and crores of homemakers, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme of the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has brought a light of self-respect into their lives. Launched with the noble vision that when a woman becomes financially empowered, the entire family progresses, this ambitious scheme was inaugurated on August 30, 2023, in the cultural city of Mysuru. Today, the scheme has successfully completed three years and emerged as an economic strength for households across the state.

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

Monthly Honorarium, A New Dimension of Women's Empowerment

The scheme was launched with the firm resolve that the lady of the house should not have to depend on others even for her small personal needs. Eligible women are receiving ₹2,000 every month directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This is not merely free money, but the highest form of honorarium being given by the State Government in recognition of the sacrifices made by homemakers who work tirelessly for their families. As a result, lower and middle-class women in both rural and urban areas have gained a small but meaningful degree of financial independence.

The Economic Revolution of Three Years

Women receiving ₹24,000 annually have gained a total financial support over ₹70,000 the last three years. This financial assistance has transformed the economic condition of poor families. Mothers across the state are using this money with greater responsibility. Thousands of women have used this support for sheep and poultry farming, children's education, purchasing household electronic appliances, and starting home-based businesses, thereby moving towards both empowerment and self-reliance. Many women in rural areas are also pooling this money into small savings groups and self-help collectives.

A Global Record in Numbers

There is no other scheme in the country that has such a large number of women beneficiaries and provides direct cash transfers on this scale. More than 1.24 crore homemakers receive ₹2,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer, and so far, the government has allocated ₹69,783 crore for this scheme.

Women's Economic Freedom is the Foundation of a Prosperous Society

The 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is not merely a political promise; it is a symbol of dignity and respect for our mothers. When money circulates in the hands of women, the entire family prospers. The fact that funds have reached the accounts of more than 1.24 crore mothers over the last three years is proof of our government's sincerity.

- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The Biggest Revolution in the Country's History

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is not only Karnataka's pride but also the largest direct cash transfer scheme implemented for women in the history of the country. Through technology, our government has successfully reached crores of mothers in a highly transparent manner and provided them with financial security in their lives.

- D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

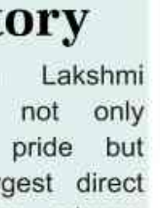
Supporting Women, Securing Families

A nation can achieve true progress only when it's women are economically empowered. The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme has provided much-needed relief to crores of families across the State amid the burden of price hikes. Women possess the strength to lead and sustain their families. The Government introduced this scheme with the belief that when a woman is empowered, the entire family becomes stronger.

- Lakshmi Hebbalkar,
Minister for Women and Child Development

"I have neither a father nor a mother. We are three sisters struggling even for a meal, and I am also physically disabled. When I felt life had ended, it was the Gruha Lakshmi money that held my hand. With that support, I started a clothing business. Siddaramaiah Sir gave life to my dream of earning independently without stretching my hand before anyone.

Jayamma, Ballari



"I started a country chicken farm by saving the money from the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme. Starting such a farm had been my dream for many years, but I lacked the capital then. Today, because of the guarantees, I am living independently without depending on anyone

Leelavathi, Shivamogga

"It has been eight years since my husband passed away. Raising three daughters and managing a home without a man's support was like living through hell. Money would come only if I got labour work during the coffee season; otherwise, we had nothing for the rest of the year. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money is our lifeline. Even imagining what would happen if this scheme stopped brings tears to my eyes.

Lakshmi, Chamarajanagar

"I run a pickle business. But I had to walk kilometres every day for sales, and my legs would get exhausted. At such a time, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme supported me. By saving the ₹2,000 I receive every month, I purchased my own scooter. It has helped me greatly in going door-to-door to sell pickles.

Zeenath, Mangaluru

"We were living in extreme poverty, and managing the household was very difficult. The Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme brought financial strength into my life. By saving the money that came every month without fail, I bought two goats and started rearing them. Their numbers have now increased and become a source of income for our family.

Devamma, Yadgir

"When my son was just five months old, my husband left me and married someone else. Debt frightened me, and I often felt like ending my life. There was no food to eat, and our electricity connection was cut for not paying the bill. The days I cried in darkness were endless. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money has removed the darkness from my life. With the help of a small petty shop gifted by an elderly woman, I use this money to buy supplies for the shop. Siddaramaiah has done a noble deed.

Renuka, Koppal

karnataka information

PAUL McCARTNEY SAYS TAYLOR SWIFT'S GLOBAL FAME PARALLELS HYSTERIA SURROUNDING 'THE BEATLES'

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

WE'LL LOVE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE IF YOU'RE PERFECT — ALANIS MORISSETTE

EVA LONGORIA SAYS SHE HAS NEVER WATCHED HER SERIES 'DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES' & DENIES PLANS TO REVIVE SHOW

Iran report claims 'deal' to reopen Hormuz; US denies

White House Says 'Draft Deal' Info Is Complete Fabrication

The US denied an Iranian state television report on a draft interim peace deal that said maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz could return to normal within a month of it coming into effect. "This report from Iranian controlled media is not true and the MoU they 'released' is a complete fabrication," the White House said in a social media post on Wednesday. "Nobody should believe what Iranian state media is putting out."

Other key points reported by Iran's IRIB News included the US lifting its naval blockade on Iranian ports and the American navy leaving waters surrounding Iran. The draft also said Iran and Oman will have a mechanism in place to oversee shipping in the strait. Oman has not commented in recent weeks on Iran saying the two are in discussions about managing the strait. "Managing the passage of ships, their inspection and receiving service fees are at the discretion of the Islamic Republic and in partnership and in cooperation with Oman," the Iranian state TV report said. Iran hasn't committed to unconditionally reopening the strait, it said.

"Indirect contacts with the Americans are continuing," Ali Bagheri-Kani, deputy secretary of Iran's supreme national security council, said on Wednesday in Russia. "Until we have agreed on all issues, we consider that we have agreed on nothing."

Deal near, Iran negotiating on fumes: Trump

President Donald Trump asserted on Wednesday that Iran is "negotiating on fumes" and insisted Nov's midterm elections won't factor in shaping his approach to the conflict. Speaking at the start of a cabinet meeting , Trump expressed confidence that a deal is near. "They thought they were gonna outwait me. You know, 'We'll outwait him. He's got the midterms,'" Trump said. "I don't care about the midterms." He acknowledged there's still work to do, but he spoke with a measure of certainty that the two sides would get there. "They want very much to make a deal," Trump said. "So far, they haven't gotten there. We're not satisfied with it, but we will be — either that or we'll have to just finish the job." AP

"There is no doubt that the conditions for passage through the Strait of Hormuz and the procedure for doing so will not be the same as before," said Bagheri-Kani. " Iran and Oman are holding talks to determine a new mechanism for passage through Hormuz."

Another potential obstacle is a parallel war in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah militants. Tehran insists the ceasefire has to cover "all fronts," including Lebanon. Israel is reluctant to accept any restrictions on its operations. Israel says its actions are necessary to protect its border communities and counter Hezbollah's rockets and drones. BLOOMBERG

Report: US will need years to replenish arms used in Iran war

Washington: US military contractors need at least three years to replenish stockpiles of three key weapons systems used heavily in the Iran war, according to an analysis released Wednesday, adding to concerns that American forces would have limited firepower in any future conflict with China.

The weapons systems are Tomahawk cruise missiles, which are used to strike targets deep inside enemy territory, and Patriot and THAAD interceptors that defend against incoming missiles and drones. "The United States has enough munitions for any plausible scenario in the Iran war, but the depleted inventories have created a window of vulnerability for a potential Western Pacific conflict," the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said in its new report. "The time needed to rebuild those inventories has thus become a major concern."

The analysis by the Washington think tank factors in the Republican Trump administration's historic defence budget proposal of $1.5 trillion for 2027. While there's bipartisan agreement in Congress to boost inventories, "the problem today isn't money; it's time," the report said. "It takes time to expand production capacity and to build these complex systems," the report said, adding that the window of vulnerability will last "for several years until inventories return to their previous levels". AP

Thrice rebuffed for US visa, Mehrotra's now part of $1 trillion co CEO club

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In the summer of 1976, a Kanpur-born teenage engineering student from BITS Pilani stood in the lobby of the US embassy in Delhi after being denied a student visa for the third time. His father, who had accompanied him, refused to leave. He had seen the photo of the consular officer in the lobby, gleaned that consular officer was out for lunch, and decided he would wait to buttonhole him to ask why his son was being denied the visa despite confirmed admissions to three universities and all documentation in order. The persistence worked. Half a century later, that student, Sanjay Mehrotra, is CEO of Micron Technology, the memory-chip giant that on Tuesday crossed a market cap of $1 trillion to break into the top 10 US companies by valuation, nipping ahead of storied giants like WalMart and Berkshire Hathaway.

It's one of the more improbable stories in Silicon Valley: A lad repeatedly rebuffed by the US going on to become the steward of one of America's most strategically important technology companies in the MAGA Age.

Mehrotra's rise completes an extraordinary desi tableau atop corporate America. Three of the world's most valuable technology companies – Microsoft, Alphabet, and Micron, all with a market cap of 1 trillion+ – are now run by Indian-born executives who arrived in the US as middle-class strivers carrying little more than engineering talent, parental sacrifice, and a quiet fire in the belly.

Satya Nadella grew up in Hyderabad as the son of a civil servant. Sundar Pichai was raised in a modest Chennai apartment where the family once shared a rotary telephone. Mehrotra too came from a middle-class family in Kanpur that didn't even have a phone. Calls to his parents during his early years in the U.S were always via "PP" – "padosi ka phone" – calling a neighbor who had a landline who would then summon his parents over.

Astonishingly, their collective ascent is now reshaping both Silicon Valley and the political debate over globalisation in Donald Trump's MAGA-fied America. Unlike Pichai and Nadella, who inherited already dominant software empires, Mehrotra's achievement has been more industrial and arguably more difficult. Memory chips are cyclical, brutally capital-intensive, and historically dominated by Asian giants such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix. When Mehrotra became Micron's CEO in 2017, the company was worth roughly $20 billion. Today, amid an AI-driven explosion in demand for high-bandwidth memory chips powering data centers, Micron hit the trillion-dollar threshold. Wall Street's sudden infatuation with Micron – a 180% rise in stock in 2026, including 75% in May alone – reflects a dawning realisation: AI may run on Nvidia processors, but it remembers through Micron memory.

The rally driving Micron has become so feverish in recent days that President Trump personally praised the company as "one of the hottest stocks" after hosting Mehrotra at the White House, amid allegations of insider trading after a Trump holding in Micron stock valued between roughly $50,000 and $100,000 came to light.

Trump later took Mehrotra along on his China trip as part of a high-profile business delegation – a remarkable embrace from a president whose political movement has often attacked globalization and immigration. That tension now defines the Indian-American CEO moment in modern America that goes beyond the tech troika.

MAGA activists and economic nationalists increasingly accuse Indian-led technology companies of outsourcing jobs, favoring Indian engineers in hiring, and maintaining divided loyalties between the United States and India. In recent days, Arvind Krishna of IBM – another Trump favorite – has come under attack from right-wing activists furious over the company's vast Indian workforce. Similar accusations have periodically dogged Microsoft's Nadella and Google's Pichai. Yet the same White House that rails against globalization also courts these executives relentlessly because they now control companies central to America's technological supremacy against China.

Few industries illustrate that contradiction more sharply than memory chips where Micron has pushed bigly into India, after ventures in Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, China and Malaysia. The company is investing more than $800 million of its own capital to build an ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, as part of India's $2.75 billion attempt to enter the global semiconductor supply chain.

The Sanand facility is rapidly hiring engineers, automation specialists, manufacturing experts, and quality technicians for its 500,000 square feet of cleanroom space, one of the largest single-floor assembly and test cleanrooms anywhere in the world, as India races to transform itself from a software-services back office into a hardware manufacturing hub. For Mehrotra, it is more personal.

Unlike many Silicon Valley executives who maintain only ceremonial ties to India, he has repeatedly framed Micron's India expansion as a strategic long-term investment in engineering talent and manufacturing depth.

The symbolism matters: the student once denied entry into America is now helping define America's semiconductor relationship with India. Still, the parallels with Nadella and Pichai are striking. Under Nadella, Microsoft's market value has exploded 10x – from roughly $300 billion in 2014 to over $3 trillion today, largely through cloud computing and AI. Pichai, who became CEO in 2019, has overseen a 4x rise – from $1 trillion into a $4 trillion-plus club that has only one other member, Nvidia.

This while navigating antitrust battles, AI disruption, and political scrutiny over search dominance. All three men share certain management traits: low-key demeanor, engineering obsession, incrementalism over theatrics, and an aversion to Silicon Valley celebrity culture. None resembles the swaggering founder archetype popularized by other tech moguls like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos. They are smooth operators, not showmen.

In an industry once dominated by charismatic dropouts – Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Larry Ellison – corporate America has quietly shifted toward technocratic immigrant executives with deep managerial discipline. That shift is not accidental. The AI era increasingly rewards operational complexity, supply-chain coordination, and geopolitical balancing rather than pure product charisma.

Mehrotra embodies that transition perfectly. He co-founded SanDisk before eventually leading Micron through one of the most consequential moments in semiconductor history. Today, memory chips sit at the center of the AI arms race between the United States and China. Micron's fortunes are now tied not just to consumer electronics but to national security, data centers, and global power politics.

The irony is rich. A young Indian student once struggled to convince America he deserved entry into the country. Today, Washington treats him as essential to preserving America's technological dominance.

And somewhere in the story lies a larger truth about modern America itself: even in an age of MAGA nativism and suspicion toward globalisation, some of the companies most central to American power are increasingly run by Indian immigrants who arrived after rejected visas, middle-class anxieties, and parents willing to wait endlessly in embassy lobbies for a second chance.

50X M-CAP RISE IN 9 YEARS

- **Sanjay Mehrotra** joins Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella as a PIO CEO who's currently **heading one of America's top 10 companies** by valuation
- Born in 1958 in Kanpur. Studied in **Sardar Patel Vidyalaya**, New Delhi, **BITS Pilani** and **UCLA Berkeley**. In 2009, completed Executive Education Program at **Stanford** Graduate School of Business
- **Co-founded SanDisk** in 1988 and was president and CEO from 2011 until 2016
- Became **CEO of Micron** with effect from **May 8, 2017**. The company's market cap has risen 50-fold from about $20bn to over $1tn during his tenure

LeT turns on its Pak masters over recognising Israel

Rajshekhar.Jha
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Lashkar-e-Taiba's deputy chief Saifullah Kasuri has warned frontline leadership and top military officials in Pakistan with direct, public threats of elimination if they "even thought of recognising Israel". "He will be assassinated, destroyed and ruined," he said addressing a rally.

Kasuri's remarks come on the heels of President Trump's appeal to several Muslim-majority nations, including Pakistan, to establish diplomatic ties with Israel under the umbrella of the Abraham Accords.

During a public rally held in the wake of Eid al-Adha prayers, Kasuri took direct aim at the country's highest governing authorities, cautioning that any behind-the-scenes attempts to alter Pakistan's long-standing foreign policy regarding Israel would be met with fierce resistance.

Reuters

Security experts saw the rhetoric as a ploy by Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir to shrug off any US pressure to support Israel

Kasuri further asserted that no international superpower possesses the leverage to coerce Islamic nations into validating Israeli statehood. He pointed to the strengthening defence alliance between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, claiming that Pakistan's military capabilities now hold a strategic reach capable of countering Israeli influence.

Throughout the address, Kasuri actively leveraged highly volatile rhetoric surrounding jihad, martyrdom, and the ongoing conflict in Palestine to inflame his followers and consolidate opposition against govt policy. "Whoever accepts Israel, will be destroyed..god willing, this Muslim nation is our faith, this is our belief...This act of hostility will continue forever, until you join us in worshipping one Allah. The deal with Saudi Arabia is a head start for Islam... for the Ummah. This is not the work of any ruler, politician, or leader. It is not the result of plans.... it is the result of thousands and millions of people who have offered their life in the path of Allah...," he said.

But security experts and sources saw Kasuri's rhetoric as "staged" and a ploy by Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir to shrug off any US pressure to support Israel.

Hamas says Israeli airstrikes killed its new military head, his family in Gaza

Hamas confirmed Wednesday that Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City killed the new chief of its military wing less than two weeks after his predecessor was killed.

Hamas said that Mohammed Odeh died Tuesday along with his wife and two of his children in an airstrike. It came after Israeli defence minister Israel Katz announced that the Israeli military had targeted and killed Odeh. At least five people — including Odeh and his family members — were killed and 12 injured in Tuesday's strike on a market in Gaza City, local hospitals said.

Hamas condemned the strike, and said Odeh had been active with the group for over three decades and was part of the first generation that helped establish the movement's military and armed wing.

AFP

Mourners at the funeral of slain Hamas commanders in Gaza City

Katz called him "one of the architects" of the Oct 7, 2023, attacks and said it was the fourth time Israel has killed the head of Hamas' military wing since that massacre. Izz al-Din al-Haddad, the previous head, was killed on May 16.

Katz said that Israel would continue to target Hamas leaders involved in the Oct 7, 2023 attack. "We pledged that Hamas will not hold civilian or military rule," he wrote on X.

PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who is preparing for elections in the fall, also threatened that Israel will target everyone involved in the Oct 7, 2023, attack. The attack came as Muslims prepared for Eid al-Adha, normally a joyous time of family gatherings and meals.

The holiday once again is subdued this year in Gaza, where the vast majority of people remain displaced and live in tents after a devastating war. Around 90% of Gaza's more than 2 million people have lost their homes, according to UN estimates, with most of them now sheltering in huge tent camps with rat infestations and pools of sewage. AFP

Trump's 'Board of Peace' fund is empty: Report

Washington: US President Donald Trump's 'Board of Peace' has "zero" cash in its official fund, despite member countries pledging billions of dollars, the Financial Times reported Wednesday. Trump conceived of the board to rebuild Gaza.

Since the board was set up in Jan, its fund — administered by the World Bank and endorsed by the UN — has received no money from donors, the FT said, citing four unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

Instead, the board has received donations directly into a JPMorgan account, the British newspaper said, citing the board's spokesperson. The board is led not just by the US but personally by Trump, who holds the final say and can remain in charge past his presidency. AFP

Uganda shuts border with Congo as Ebola cases rise

Kampala: Ugandan authorities on Wednesday ordered the closure of the border with Congo "with immediate effect" as suspected cases surge near 1,000 in its neighbour of a rare type of Ebola and as others emerge at home.

The measure, which goes against WHO guidance, underscored growing fears of contagion in this East African country that, like Congo, has experience responding to Ebola outbreaks but is faced with a type this time, Bundibugyo, with no approved medicines or vaccines. A local Ebola task force made the decision to close the border after a rise in Ugandan health workers exposed to the virus by Congolese patients.

Travel across the Congo border will be authorised only in emergency cases, officials said. Any people entering from Congo under emergency circumstances will be taken into mandatory self-isolation for 21 days. The number of suspected cases in eastern Congo is nearing 1,000, with at least 220 suspected deaths. Congo's health ministry on Tuesday said 101 cases have been confirmed, and they are looking into over 3,000 possible contacts.

Meanwhile, Canada and the Bahamas said on Tuesday they will temporarily ban residents from the DR Congo, Uganda and South Sudan amid an Ebola outbreak. Residents from those countries will be banned from entering Canada for 90 days starting Wednesday. Thailand imposed a mandatory 21-day quarantine on people travelling from Congo and Uganda. AGENCIES

WORLD DIGEST

AFP

AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH: Mountaineers queue up during their ascent from the Hillary Step to summit Mt Everest in Nepal

Job ad for shepherds goes viral in China exposing labour market strains

Chinese farm owner Zuo Xiaoyong was stunned to see his job ad for shepherds to work in the remote and rugged grasslands south of Mongolia becoming the day's top trending social media post. More than 700 people applied for the two positions, including white-collar employees from Shanghai and Chongqing, factory workers across China, and even university graduates. The response to Zuo's late April ad — which drew 59 million views within hours on Weibo, where it generated 21,000 different discussion threads — reveals the growing strains in the country's job market. "I didn't expect it to go viral," said Zuo, adding that a 10th of the applicants had just finished university, while others had debt, grinding industrial jobs, or were worn down by workplace politics.

Spanish police search HQ of governing party

Police in Spain searched the headquarters of the governing Socialist Party on Wednesday as part of an investigation into possible financial wrongdoing linked to three former party members and other individuals who allegedly tried to influence police and legal cases. The search of the office in central Madrid is another blow to the party of PM Pedro Sanchez, whose Socialists have been hammered by a series of corruption scandals to some of its leader's closest confidants, his wife and brother and the previous Socialist to hold his office.

Chinese dissident flees to S Korea by rubber boat

A Chinese dissident who has long been a thorn in Beijing's side has escaped to South Korea on a rubber boat, his lawyer confirmed on Wednesday, after repeated attempts to flee China. Dong Guangping, a former policeman who was imprisoned for his activism, was found by South Korean authorities on Monday night drifting off the country's west coast on a 11-foot rubber boat with a 9.9-horsepower engine, according to police. He was taken to shore for questioning. Dong, 68, is known for his opposition to the Chinese Communist Party and his advocacy for political reform and human rights.

The urge to purge: Trump nixes veteran pro-India Senator in GOP primary

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: For Republican politicians in Donald Trump's America, there are now only two career paths: obedience or obituary. On Tuesday night in Texas, the political undertaker came for Senator John Cornyn — a four-term Republican heavyweight, former Senate whip, longtime conservative stalwart, and co-chair of the Senate India Caucus — who was steamrolled in the GOP primary (inner party election) by Trump-backed Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Cornyn's chief crime was not ideological impurity. On policy, he voted for Trump priorities most times. But in today's Republican Party, conservatism without total submission to Trump and the MAGA base is as relevant as a rotary telephone or manual typewriter.

The Texas massacre came barely a week after Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy — one of the Republicans who voted to convict Trump after Jan 6 — was politically strangled by another Trump-endorsed challenger. The message to Republicans nationwide is now so clear it could be printed on MAGA merchandise: cross Trump and get crossed out.

Trump's grip over the Republican base remains so absolute that senators, governors, congressmen, cabinet members and even judges now behave like medieval courtiers nervously checking the king's mood before speaking. Washington Republicans once worried about alienating suburban moderates or independent voters. Today they worry about a 2am Truth Social post calling them "weak," "disloyal," or, "RINO" – Republicans in Name Only.

Getty Images via AFP

Bloomberg

Senator John Cornyn (L) was defeated by Trump-backed Ken Paxton

The modern Republican survival kit therefore contains three essentials: a border-security soundbite, muscular support for war or peace depending on mood, and lips permanently attached to Trump's backside. Cornyn learned this too late. Despite months of carefully repositioning himself as a loyal Trump ally as Republican lawmakers do in the weeks before re-election, he could not escape his establishment image. Record spending ($90 million) in the most expensive primary in US history ($120 million) did not help against a vengeful President.

Paxton offered the MAGA base what they crave: perpetual outrage, culture-war aggression, and devotion to Trumpian grievance politics. Legal scandals, impeachment drama, fraud allegations, and ethical clouds hovering over Paxton mattered little. In the MAGA era, indictments often function as resume enhancements.

The result was not merely a primary defeat. It was another political execution staged as a warning to others. Trump nixed Cornyn despite polls showing he would have fared better in the Nov face-off against Democrat James Talarico than would Paxton.

All this is unfolding even as Trump's national approval ratings continue to tank. Yet inside Republican primaries, none of that seems to matter. Trump remains less a politician than a tribal chief. To oppose him is to risk excommunication.

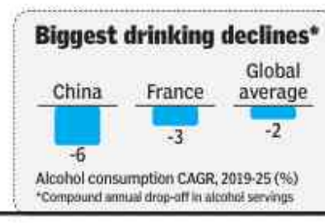
Nationally, Republicans privately fret that Trump's poor poll numbers may drag down candidates in Nov midterms. Publicly, however, they compete to praise his golf swing, his stamina, his Truth Social posts, and even his disastrous war on Iran. At the same time, Trump allies across several states are aggressively pursuing fresh gerrymandering efforts to redraw congressional maps — an attempt critics say is designed to conjure electoral wins.

The party's operating philosophy can be summarised in a single sentence: Thou shalt have no other god before Donald Trump. And if you do, there is always a primary waiting around the corner.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

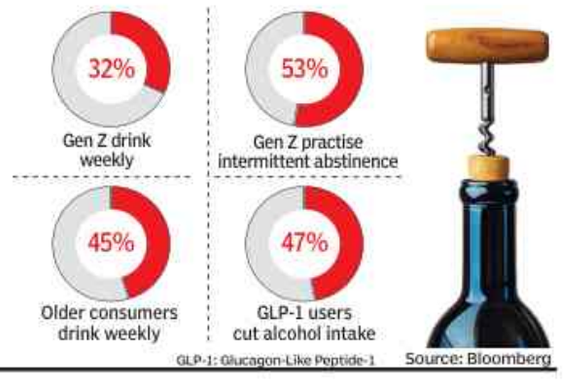
Great Global Sobering
Health concerns, tighter budgets and changing lifestyles are pushing people to drink less, forcing alcohol giants to reinvent their businesses



Alcohol consumption Down **2%** CAGR globally between 2019 and 2025

Beer under pressure | One of the weakest-performing categories despite sporting events and favourable weather

Non-alcoholic boom Consumption growing at **8%** CAGR (2019-24)



Adani Power overtakes Infosys in m-cap ranking

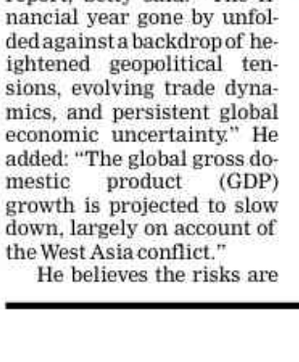
New Delhi: Adani group stocks ended higher on Wednesday in an otherwise subdued market, with Adani Power overtaking Infosys in m-cap ranking to become India's 11th most-valued firm. The stock of Adani Total Gas surged 13.4%, NDTV climbed 10.4%, Adani Energy Solutions jumped 5.3%, Adani Green Energy was up 2.2%, and Adani Power edged up by 1.7%, At close of trade, Adani Power's market valuation stood at Rs 4,79,706.8 crore, while that of Infosys was Rs 4,70,111.7 crore. AGENCIES

Interim trade pact: US team to visit India from June 1-4

New Delhi: A US team is visiting India from June 1-4 to discuss finalisation of the details for the interim trade pact and take forward negotiations under the broader bilateral trade agreement (BTA), the commerce ministry said on Wednesday. The US team will be led by its chief negotiator Brendan Lynch.

The two sides are "proposed to finalise the details of the interim agreement and take forward the negotiations under the broader BTA on multiple areas such as market access, non-tariff measures, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion, and economic security alignment," it said.

On Feb 7, India and the US issued a joint statement finalising the contours or framework of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) or an interim trade agreement. Now, both sides will have to finalise the legal text for that deal. The framework reaffirmed the countries' commitment to the broader India-US BTA negotiations. PTI



SC rulings batter online fantasy gaming industry

For Many Affected Firms, The Only Option Is Liquidation

Supriya Roy & Vaitheeswaran B | TNN

Bengaluru/Chennai: The Supreme Court delivered two rulings on Wednesday that together could wipe out what remains of the online fantasy gaming sector in India. First, it upheld a retrospective 28% GST on online fantasy gaming and betting companies. Then, it ruled that states can criminalise online games played for money.

The bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan settled a question the industry had fought for years. Can skill-based games where money is staked be taxed differently from gambling? The court said no. Once money is staked on an uncertain outcome, the game's nature does not matter, it said.

That single finding reinstates backdated tax demands against Dream11, Delta Corp, Gameskraft and others. The total liability exceeds Rs 1 lakh crore. Interest and penalties push it higher still. "This creates an immediate, steep financial burden that cannot be passed on to consumers," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY India.

The damage reaches further back than many expected. Nitin Vijaivergia, partner at Price Waterhouse & Co LLP, noted the ruling applies even before October 2023, when the law was amended. Companies also now face a 40% GST rate introduced in Sept 2025. "The gaming industry faces substantial challenges," he said. Sajan Poovayya, a senior advocate who argued against the levy in the Supreme Court, said, "Today's verdict is personally disappointing." The debate over fair taxation of skill-based digital businesses, he added, "is far from over." For many in the industry, there may be no debate left to have.

One gaming executive, speaking anonymously, called it "a death knell to the industry." Companies were already unable to pay salaries, the person said. "Whatever is left will be severely impacted." A founder who had been trying to pivot his 800-person company said only around 80 employees remain. "This ruling will get every last penny we have left," the person said. "We cannot service even 10% of this tax demand."

Most companies have been fighting demands through court petitions. Little or no tax has actually been paid yet. That changes now. For many, the only path left is voluntary liquidation.

GAME OVER, ALMOST

- Total tax exposure now **exceeds Rs 1L cr**, excluding interest and penalties
- Gaming firms **now face 40% GST** after Sept 2025 changes
- SC ruled skill-based **games involving stakes cannot be taxed differently from gambling**
- **Judgment applies retrospectively**, including periods before the Oct 2023 GST law amendment
- **States can now criminalise online games played for money**, widening regulatory risks for cos
- Industry executives warn **several firms may face layoffs, insolvency** or voluntary liquidation

'Marketing expenses a standard practice'

MSRDC Says They Were Not Compensated For Placing Large Deposits In HDFC Bank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Amid reports that HDFC Bank used "marketing expenses" to compensate a state agency for placing large deposits, senior officials at the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation maintained that an additional 1.5% payout over the stated interest rate formed part of a long-standing business model, describing it as an industry-wide convention during land acquisition exercises.

Senior MSRDC officials told **TOI** that payments of this sort are often structured to avoid setting precedents in deposit pricing. "When you pay a differential amount to one depositor, you don't want to set it as a precedent. So, it is classified as a marketing expense," officials said, adding that in addition to interest banks pay commissions to intermediaries who mobilise deposits—typically linked to quarterly average balances.

RBI rules, however, disallow any incentive for deposit mobilisation. A report by The Indian Express said there was allegedly a quid pro quo arrangement in which the bank compensated the corporation for bulk deposits through marketing outlays in FY24 and FY25. The report has rattled investors with the bank's shares falling 2.6%, erasing over Rs 30,000 crore in market capitalisation in a single session.

At issue is not merely nomenclature but intent. According to the report, additional payments were effectively incentives to secure deposits—something the Reserve Bank of India explicitly prohibits. While banks are permitted to offer differential interest rates on bulk deposits—defined as term deposits of Rs 3 crore and above—such flexibility does not extend to inducements.

Nor does it apply to certain statutory schemes, including those under the Bank Term Deposit Scheme, 2006, and the Capital Gains Accounts Scheme, 1988.

The bank, for its part, has pushed back forcefully. "We strongly reject any assumptions of wrongdoing or culpability based on selective material," it said, maintaining that robust internal oversight, audit mechanisms and process controls are consistently followed. A detailed questionnaire sent to HDFC Bank remained unanswered. The controversy follows the resignation of former chairman Atanu Chakraborty, who stepped down citing concerns around values and ethics in the bank. Since his departure two months ago, the bank's shares have declined by nearly 10%, suggesting that markets are pricing in regulatory risks and questions of governance.

BANK LOSES ₹30K CR IN M-CAP

- A **report on Wednesday said HDFC Bank made payments of ₹45 crore** to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation in FY24 and FY25
- **These payments were effectively incentives to secure deposits,** according to the report. This is something Reserve Bank of India explicitly prohibits
- The development rattled investors with the **bank's shares falling 2.6%, erasing over Rs 30,000 crore in market capitalisation** in a single trading session
- HDFC Bank pushed back forcefully, saying: **"We strongly reject any assumptions of wrongdoing** or culpability based on selective material"
- **The controversy follows the resignation of former chairman Atanu Chakraborty,** who stepped down citing concerns around values and ethics in the bank

QIA alleges wrongdoing; Byju calls case procedural

▶Continued from page 1

QIA sharply disputed Raveendran's claims around settlement discussions. "QIA was pleased by the result of the contempt hearing in Singapore," a QIA spokesperson told TOI, adding that the six-month prison sentence arose from Raveendran's "serious wrongdoing," including alleged violation of a global freezing order on his assets.

The sovereign wealth fund also rejected his claim that the proceedings were being used as a pressure tactic and said that while settlement discussions had taken place, "no settlement appears achievable."

The Singapore proceedings are part of a wider dispute involving Qatar Holding, an arm of QIA, which had extended a $150 million loan to Byju's investment vehicle BIPL in 2022 to help purchase shares in Aakash Educational Services. The loan was personally guaranteed by Raveendran. Qatar Holding later alleged that shares linked to the transaction were transferred to another Singapore entity controlled by him in violation of the agreement. A Singapore tribunal subsequently awarded about $235 million plus interest in favour of Qatar Holding. The matter later spilled into courts in Singapore and India. In another post on X, Raveendran described the Singapore case as a "procedural contempt of court order" linked to document disclosure disputes.

He said the matter did not involve "a finding of fraud, dishonesty, or any wrongdoing on the merits".

A TOUGH LESSON

- Singapore court sentences Raveendran **to six months in contempt proceedings** linked to asset-disclosure orders
- **Sentence is set to begin on June 15,** according to people familiar with the matter
- **Court had earlier found him guilty of contempt for failing** to comply with multiple orders regarding disclosure of assets
- **Qatar loan at heart of dispute:** Qatar Holding lent $150 million in 2022 to finance the purchase of Aakash Educational Services shares
- Raveendran claimed an in-principle settlement with lenders and stakeholders, **saying only minor issues remained**
- Lenders disputed those claims, **saying no settlement exists and there has been no acknowledgment of "no wrongdoing"**
- **Qatar Investment Authority welcomed the ruling,** while the case forms part of a broader dispute over the $150-million loan tied to the Aakash acquisition

NBFCs gain share of retail lending over past year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Non-bank lenders and fintech partnerships are gaining ground in India's credit market, with NBFCs expanding market share across retail and microfinance segments even as overall lending surges and asset quality improves, according to industry reports released in May 2026.

The credit landscape is undergoing a structural shift as standard commercial banks face competition from tech-driven players. Insights from the Experian Industry Insights Report and the Disha report by Equifax show NBFCs and NBFC-fintech collaborations capturing share in retail credit, consumer loans, and microfinance. The Experian Industry Insights Report primarily covers the Financial Year 2025–26 while Equifax report considers data upto April 2026.

According to the Experian Industry Insights Report, retail lending rebounded sharply with overall sourcing rising to Rs 75 lakh crore in FY26, up 31% year-on-year. Within this expansion, NBFC fintechs emerged as key drivers of growth by leveraging digital onboarding.

Mphasis invests ₹250cr in building AI platforms

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Mumbai: Blackstone-backed Mphasis said it invested about Rs 250 crore in building enterprise AI platforms during FY26 while maintaining its EBIT margins, as the company seeks to reposition itself for an AI-driven shift.

The company on Wednesday unveiled Tria, an outcome-based enterprise AI platform aimed at bridging the gap between solution design and delivery, and helping enterprises deploy AI for business transformation. Mphasis CEO Nitin Rakesh said FY27 would be a foundational year for the initiative, with the company expecting a gradual shift in its revenue mix over time.

"The approach combines recurring platform revenue, implementation work, and large managed services engagements enhanced by AI and automation," Rakesh said at a press conference in Mumbai. He argued that AI is fundamentally changing the economics of traditional IT services. "I do not view AI as a disruption anymore; I see it as a reset," he said. "Historically, our business model was based on effort and headcount, where revenue growth had a near-linear relationship with workforce expansion. AI changes that model, but it also creates entirely new investment pools and opportunities."

As part of its outcome-led strategy, Mphasis plans to use its Forward Deployed Engineering & Solutions (FDES) group to deliver proof-of-value initiatives through Tria under a unified operating structure. The company also expects to gradually move away from bespoke, effort-based engagements toward a platform-led model combining subscriptions and services. Rakesh said pricing would not be structured around labour costs versus agent costs. "Instead, it is tied to value and outcomes. There could be a base fee along with outcome-linked payments." He said the future opportunity for services firms lies increasingly in technology orchestration rather than labour arbitrage. While annual recurring revenue (ARR) streams are expected to grow over time, he said their contribution currently remains in the low-to-mid single digits.

Rakesh also acknowledged the structural pressures facing the IT services industry as AI adoption accelerates. Large language models are increasingly automating software development work that services firms traditionally billed by engineering hours, putting pressure on the economics of headcount-linked delivery models. However, he argued that even AI model companies increasingly recognise the need for engineering and integration layers. "AI is a hammer looking for a nail," he said.

> Standing still is not an option, particularly in the technology business...The cost of writing software has fallen sharply, but enterprises still operate in complex environments, and that complexity cannot become the industry's defensive moat
>
> **Nitin Rakesh** | CEO, MPHASIS

No extra powers to founders in rejected proposal: Swiggy

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Bengaluru: Swiggy on Wednesday said the board proposal recently rejected by shareholders was aimed at ensuring founder and senior management representation, and would not have given additional powers or control to the company's founders.

In a clarification filing, the Bengaluru-based food and quick commerce company said it needs a governance structure that supports continuity in management oversight and execution of strategy. Sources told **TOI** that the proposal had raised governance concerns among some institutional investors over whether the changes could increase management influence over board decisions.

Last week, shareholders did not approve proposed changes to Swiggy's Articles of Association. The special resolution received 72.36% shareholder support, below the 75% threshold needed for passage. The proposal would have allowed founder and group CEO Sriharsha Majety to nominate cofounder Phani Kishan Addepalli and chief financial officer Rahul Bothra to the board. Swiggy's current board comprises four independent directors, one executive director and two nominee directors. Had the proposal gone through, the board would have added two more management-linked directors.

Addressing governance concerns, Swiggy clarified that the proposed rights did not include veto powers, affirmative voting rights, committee nomination rights, quorum rights, permanent board seats or the ability to appoint a majority of directors. The firm also said all nominations would continue to remain subject to review by the nomination and remuneration committee, board approval and shareholder approval.

Govt doubles Coal India OFS size

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Enthused by strong investor demand for Coal India shares in the ongoing offer for sale (OFS), govt has decided to double the total number of shares it is selling through the issue.

At close of the offer on Friday, govt is expected to garner close to Rs 5,100 crore by offloading 2% stake in the offer.

On Wednesday, govt said it was offering nearly an additional 6.2 crore shares, or 1% stake, of Coal India in the OFS. Earlier, in the base offer, govt had offered exactly the same number of shares of the PSU major at the per-share floor price of Rs 412. "The OFS for Coal India received enthusiastic response from investors and was oversubscribed 8.14 times on the first day," secretary, DIPAM, the ministry responsible for govt's divestment programme, said on X.

The total size of the OFS will be up to a little over 12.3 crore shares, representing 2% of the equity capital of the company, of which about 1.2 crore shares, that is 10% of the offer, would be available for retail investors on May 29, the company said on BSE. Additionally, up to 25,000 shares will be offered to eligible employees, it said.

'Strengthen defences against threat of AI-led cyberattacks'

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New Delhi: India's cybersecurity agency has released a new framework, asking organisations to strengthen defences against the growing threat of AI-assisted cyberattacks, warning that traditional security practices are no longer sufficient.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) published the 38-page blueprint, outlining measures to reduce exposure to AI-enabled attacks, which are targeting digital infrastructure across sectors. CERT-In said AI is sharply reducing the time between the discovery of a vulnerability and its exploitation. "Exploitation timelines are reducing significantly," the agency said, adding that agentic AI systems are making semi-autonomous and fully automated multi-stage cyberattacks increasingly viable.

The framework outlines twelve core defensive principles built around zero-trust security, continuous exposure management and an "assume breach" approach. It also covers fourteen technical control areas, including identity and access management, cloud security, AI system protection and operational technology safeguards.

CERT-In has proposed aggressive patching timelines for organisations handling critical systems. Known exploited vulnerabilities affecting internet-facing infrastructure should be addressed within 12 hours "where feasible", while critical external exposures must be patched or mitigated within one day. The agency also reiterated that cyber incidents must be reported within six hours of detection under existing compliance requirements.

The agency said organisations should move away from periodic security reviews and adopt continuous monitoring, behavioural analytics, adversarial testing and AI-assisted defensive operations. Srinivas L, joint CEO at 63SATS Cybertech, described the framework as "a much-needed wake-up call for Indian industry".

He added that while digitally mature enterprises may already be capable of meeting such timelines, legacy-heavy sectors, including banking, manufacturing and govt would need to accelerate investments in virtual patching, network segmentation and infrastructure modernisation. Bikramdeep Singh, country manager at Proofpoint, said organisations were increasingly struggling to prioritise real-world threats, amid a flood of vulnerability alerts.

"The patch cycle is no longer the security clock," Singh said. "Frontier AI models are dramatically accelerating vulnerability discovery at scale, but threat actors' core playbooks have not changed."

SBI chief flags inflation, growth worries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: State Bank of India chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has warned that the ongoing conflict in West Asia could weigh on growth and rekindle inflationary pressures, even as India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain resilient.

In his message to shareholders in the bank's annual report, Setty said: "The financial year gone by unfolded against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tensions, evolving trade dynamics, and persistent global economic uncertainty." He added: "The global gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to slow down, largely on account of the West Asia conflict."

He believes the risks are not merely cyclical but structural, noting that "elevated public debt, volatile energy prices, and increasing geopolitical fragmentation continue to pose risks to long-term global growth." For India, while the near-term outlook remains strong, the spillover effects of the conflict could become harder to contain.

"The recent challenges posed by the West Asia conflict are proactively being accommodated through regulatory dispensation by the RBI and fiscal measures... however, the economic fallout of the conflict may lead to lower GDP growth and higher inflation in FY 2027," he said. Setty underscored that India has so far weathered global turbulence better than most peers supported by "strong domestic demand, sustained public investment, improving private consumption, and policy continuity." He added that "India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust, with inflation likely to remain within the RBI's comfort band and fiscal policy maintaining a prudent balance between growth and consolidation," but cautioned that external shocks could test this equilibrium.

Setty suggested that managing volatility in energy markets and capital flows will be critical as geopolitical risks persist. His remarks indicate that policymakers and banks alike may need to remain agile in responding to sudden shifts in inflation and growth dynamics.

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>
> India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust, with inflation likely to remain within the RBI's comfort band and fiscal policy maintaining a prudent balance between growth and consolidation
>
> **—CS Setty** | CHAIRMAN, SBI

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

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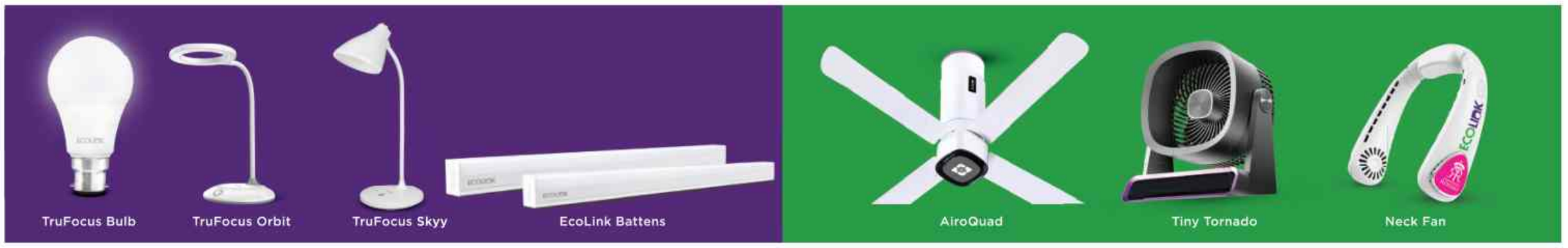

Night belongs to Sooryavanshi

IPL Eliminator: Raj Royals Opener's 29-Ball 97 Knocks Sunrisers Out

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New Chandigarh: Just before the first ball was bowled in the IPL-2026 Eliminator at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Stadium here, 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was seen sitting with his eyes closed, meditating. There seemed to be a quiet prayer on his lips. Within 20 minutes, the roles had been reversed with cruel finality.

As the teenage prodigy began his work, it was the Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers who were left praying for mercy.

What followed was 29 deliveries of pure, uncut sporting theatre. Sooryavanshi didn't just play an innings; he unleashed a hurricane that almost blew Chris Gayle out of the IPL record books, smashing 97 with five fours and a staggering 12 sixes.

On the back of Sooryavanshi's jaw-dropping assault, Rajasthan Royals piled up a daunting 243/8. And if there was one batting line-up capable of treating that mountain like a climbable one, it was SRH's. With Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Ishan Kishan stacked at the top, Sunrisers walked out with enough firepower to believe that 244 was achievable. For a brief while, that belief flickered brightly. Then Jofra Archer arrived, breathing fire.

Archer (3/58) looked charged up from his very first stride, bowling with hostility and rhythm. The speed gun repeatedly flashed beyond 150kph and it took him just two deliveries to rip a hole through the chase.

Charging in hard, Archer banged in a short ball at Abhishek Sharma. The left-hander, hurried completely by the pace and bounce, awkwardly attempted a hook. The ball ballooned safely to wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, and Rajasthan had their early breakthrough.

Archer then removed Ishan Kishan and Head as Hyderabad were eventually bowled out for 196, handing Rajasthan a commanding 47-run win. With the victory, Rajasthan Royals now march into Friday's second qualifier against Gujarat Titans for a place in the final.

Earlier, Sooryavanshi began his assault by treating Sunrisers captain Pat Cummins not like an international icon, but like a regular club bowler, hoisting him nonchalantly straight down the ground for six in the first over. When Eshan Malinga tried to push him back with a vicious, throat-directed bouncer in the second over, the kid simply arched his back, trusted his wrists and hooked it deep into the square-leg stands.

But the true absurdity of his talent crystallised when Cummins returned for his second over. Sooryavanshi took him apart in an exhibition of complete batting freedom. Three sixes came in a row, each distinct in its geometry.

The first was a lofted chip down the ground that barely looked like a swing but still cleared the ropes with room to spare. Next, when Cummins tried to overcorrect with a short ball, Sooryavanshi effortlessly upper-cut it over third man. To complete the trilogy, the Rajasthan Royals opener waited back on a slower ball and hammered it violently back past the bowler's ears.

Rajasthan Royals flew to 50 in just 3.2 overs, and the teenager raised his own half-century off a mere 16 deliveries. By the time Sakib Hussain was brought on to stem the bleeding, Sooryavanshi had fully unlocked his hitting arc. He loaded up and dispatched Hussain for three more sixes.

Nitin Sharma

65 Sixes hit by **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** in 15 innings, an all-time record by a batter in an IPL season, breaking Chris Gayle's tally of 59 sixes in 14 innings for RCB in 2012.

SCOREBOARD

RR: Y Jaiswal c Abhishek b Shivang 29, V Sooryavanshi c Ravichandran b Hinge 97, D Jurel c Reddy b Hinge 50, R Parag c Klaasen b Hinge 26, D Ferreira run out 12, D Shanaka c Abhishek b Malinga 5, R Jadeja not out 12, J Archer c Abhishek b Reddy 4, N Burger run out 1, S Mishra not out 1; **Extras: (b2, w3, nb1) 6; Total: (8 wkts) 243; FoW:** 1-125, 2-137, 3-192, 4-207, 5-214, 6-234, 7-238, 8-240; **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-64-0, Malinga 4-0-40-1, Hussain 4-0-52-0, Hinge 4-0-54-3, Shivang 2-0-19-1, Reddy 2-0-12-1.

SRH: A Sharma c Jurel b Archer 0, T Head b Archer 17, I Kishan c Ferreira b Archer 33, S Ravichandran c Archer b Burger 1, H Klaasen lbw b Punja 18, N Reddy c Shanaka b Jadeja 38, S Arora c Burger b Jadeja 35, P Cummins c Archer b Mishra 1, S Kumar c Sooryavanshi b Mishra 27, E Malinga c Archer b Burger 5, S Hussain not out 5; **Extras: (w15, nb1) 16; Total: (19.2 ovrs) 196; FoW:** 1-0, 2-51, 3-52, 4-57, 5-81, 6-137, 7-139, 8-163, 9-187, 10-196; **Bowling:** Archer 4-0-58-3, Burger 3-0-26-2, Brijesh 3-0-31-0, Punja 4-0-39-1, Mishra 2.2-0-21-2, Jadeja 3-0-21-2.

Result: **RR won by 47 runs**

334.48
Sooryavanshi's strike rate during his innings of 97 off 29 balls, the highest among IPL batters with 90+ scores. He broke the record of Rajat Patidar (281.81 during his 93* off 33 balls vs GT in Dharamshala on May 26, 2026).

16 Balls taken by Sooryavanshi to race to his 50, the joint-quickest in IPL playoff matches after Suresh Raina (16-ball fifty for Chennai Super Kings vs Punjab at Wankhede in Mumbai on May 30, 2014).

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Quiet reinvention defines Patidar's IPL

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Dharamshala: If it was not for an injury to Luvnith Sisodia, the record books wouldn't be telling you today that Rajat Patidar has become only the fifth captain to lead his franchise to successive IPL finals. That quirk of fate not only allowed Patidar to make a comeback to Royal Challengers Bengaluru but also helped him emerge as one of their most successful skippers.

However, the franchise and the player didn't have a happy opening chapter. Patidar was released by RCB after an underwhelming maiden stint with them in 2021. No franchise showed interest in him at the auction the next year, and it was only when Sisodia was ruled out that the RCB management decided to fall back on Patidar. He grabbed the opportunity with both hands and slammed a 54-ball 112 against KKR in the Eliminator to earn the franchise's trust.

Four years later, Patidar has transformed himself from one of the most underrated captains in the IPL to one of the most celebrated. On Tuesday, he was at the forefront of RCB's charge towards their fifth IPL title clash, demolishing Gujarat Titans with an unbeaten 93 off 33 balls in the first qualifier.

Yet, he was more keen to dwell on the team effort behind the massive win. "It was a super game for us. The way the batsmen dominated and everyone was striking with

Patidar

intent, that was really good for us," he said. The rise of RCB and the rise of Patidar as a leader have gone hand in hand. A year after he lost his spot in the Indian Test side, Patidar was elevated to RCB captaincy before the league started last year. The decision did raise a few eyebrows. After all, he had to manage a stalwart like Virat Kohli and other senior pros.

But the RCB team management threw their support behind their new captain. In his own unassuming way, Patidar sought suggestions from his seniors, earned their trust and quietly built confidence in his leadership within the group.

"He goes about his captaincy without drawing too much attention. But he makes all the important decisions in a very cool, calm and uncomplicated way," said RCB's director of cricket, Mo Bobat.

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TIMES SPORT
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

TVS Apache RTR SERIES

CHAMPIONS WILL RISE
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Beating the IPL heat

As Soaring Temperatures Test Players Through A Demanding T20 Season, Support Staff Are Using Tailored Hydration, Cooling & Recovery Plans To Keep Them Fuelled...

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Pune: Rising temperatures, scorching heat and high humidity are draining every bit out of the cricketers as they battle 40-plus degree temperatures during the two months of IPL action. Behind every run scored, every wicket taken and every boundary stopped, there is a team of physios, nutritionists and strength and conditioning coaches working round the clock to keep the players fit.

The increasing intensity of Indian summers has forced franchises to rethink almost every aspect of preparation. "Heat loads feel much more aggressive now. Players fatigue faster, sweat more and recovery demands much greater effort than before," Punjab Kings' nutritionist Nicole Linhares Kedia told **TOI**. Kedia said that with back-to-back games and hostile weather conditions, recovery is no longer an afterthought.

"Recovery now begins immediately after a game or training session ends, with cooling interventions, recovery nutrition and rehydration protocols. Managing heat today is not only about performance but also about long-term player health and sustaining consistency through a demanding IPL season," Kedia said.

"Even a one to two per cent drop in body water can affect reaction time, coordination, decision-making and endurance, which are all critical in cricket," she said, adding that fast bowlers and allrounders remain the most vulnerable because of repeated high-intensity efforts and greater sweat loss.

AP

SRH's Ishan Kishan cools down during a break

WINNING DNA UNLEASHED

Since every player is different, their rehydration needs are also different. "Hydration is no longer one-size-fits-all in cricket. IPL teams have moved far beyond the old 'drink more water' approach. Today, hydration and recovery plans are individualized, backed by sweat-rate monitoring, electrolyte tracking, cooling strategies and cramp management," Kedia said.

The battle against heat has also produced some unusual methods. "We've recently started using more pickle juice. It helps from a rehydration perspective and players susceptible to cramping," veteran physiotherapist Andrew Leipus said.

Leipus, who has spent over two decades in Indian conditions, feels staying match-fit during the season goes beyond nutrition and hydration. "Sometimes we delay warm-ups, shorten sessions or even warm up in the pool to reduce heat stress," the physio, who served the Indian cricket team in the early 2000s, said.

Kolkata Knight Riders' strength and conditioning coach Sagar M said the demands of afternoon matches remain particularly unforgiving. "Afternoon games are tougher because players spend long periods under direct sunlight. To prepare for such conditions, KKR schedules practice sessions during the hottest parts of the day," he said.

Leipus feels the aim of the support staff is to keep their players injury free. "The holy grail of sports medicine is reducing injury risk," he said, adding, "Our job is to prepare players and keep all 25 available for selection fit throughout the tournament."

Prannoy, Sen advance in Singapore

Singapore: HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen advanced to the men's singles second round with wins at the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Prannoy produced a composed performance to prevail 10-21, 21-12, 21-18 over world No.5 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in just over an hour.

It was the 33-year-old Indian's first win over Christie in five years, having last defea-

BADMINTON

ted him at the 2021 Indonesia Open. Prannoy, who played epic roles in India's 2022 Thomas Cup triumph and the recent bronze medal win in Denmark, will face Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew next.

Later, Lakshya saw off world No. 24 Lu Guang Zu 21-17, 21-15 to set up a second-round clash with second seeded Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round after beating Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-14, 20-22, 21-13. However, Kidambi Srikanth and Malvika Bansod couldn't cross the opening hurdle. Srikanth lost 20-22, 21-19, 17-21 to local hero Loh Kean Yew. Malvika lost 21-11 19-21 12-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang Ti. The Panda sisters — Rutaparna and Swetaparna — lost 9-21, 17-21 to Thailand's P. Aiamvareesrisakul and S. Janpeng in another match. PTI

Harman seeks Lord's glory

Skipper Hopes India Women Will Hit Top Gear In Series Vs England Ahead Of WC

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These are heady days for Harmanpreet Kaur and she wants the momentum to last. Fresh from receiving the prestigious Padma Shri in New Delhi on Monday for leading India to their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title last year, the India skipper struck a confident tone ahead of the team's T20I series opener against England in Chelmsford.

THE CHASE IS ON

The three-match series serves as the build-up to the Women's T20 World Cup in England, where Harmanpreet will feature in her 10th edition of the tournament and captain India for a fifth straight time. Yet, one piece remains missing from her decorated career, a T20 World Cup title. At 37, Harmanpreet knows the stakes. And with the final set to be played at Lord's, she admitted the prospect of lifting the trophy at the iconic venue would be the ultimate full-circle moment. "It would be a dream come true," she said. "For any cricketer who debuted in England and then gets to win a World Cup here, you can't ask for anything more."

Her sentiments carry depth given where it all began for the iconic batter.

Harmanpreet made her T20I debut in England during the 2009 World Cup, a modest start that saw her score just eight runs as India slumped to a heavy 10-wicket defeat against the hosts at Taunton after limping to 112-8. Seventeen years on, both she and Indian women's cricket have undergone a remarkable transformation.

The 2025 ODI World Cup triumph has changed the team's mindset, she believes. "That win gave us belief. We now know how to handle pressure and close out big games. That confidence will definitely help us in the T20 World Cup," Harmanpreet said.

India begin their campaign on June 14 against Pakistan in Birmingham. The ongoing England series, Harmanpreet stressed, will be crucial in fine-tuning combinations and adapting to conditions.

India series a perfect prep: Dunkley

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Chennai: England and India Women are set to renew their rivalry in a three-match T20I series starting on Thursday in Chelmsford, ahead of the T20 World Cup to be held across England later this year.

India have firmly established themselves as a force to reckon with and England opener Sophia Dunkley believes the side is now on par with powerhouse Australia.

"India have a strong squad with a lot of world-class players. So it's going to be a massive challenge and I'm sure it will be a hard-fought one as well. I think they're up there with Australia," Dunkley told **TOI**.

England, who last won the T20 World Cup in 2009, head into the series on the back of a dominant 2-1 victory over New Zealand.

Dunkley, who began her career in the middle-order and has now cemented her place at the top, feels the India series will be the ideal build-up to the World Cup.

"The series is going to put our skills under a lot of pressure, which is perfect prep ahead of the World Cup. We haven't been together in this particular T20 lineup for a long time, so it's about finding the right combinations and becoming really familiar with those ahead of the WC."

(Watch India Women's Tour of England live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD and Sony LIV).

SNAP SHOTS

Depay in Netherlands World Cup squad

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman has included Corinthians forward Memphis Depay in his World Cup squad announced on Wednesday, but Liverpool wing-back Jeremie Frimpong missed out. Depay, who is the Netherlands' all-time top goalscorer with 55 goals, is short of match-fitness having only recently returned from a two-month injury-enforced absence. The 32-year-old played 34 minutes on his return to Brazilian Serie A action last weekend. The Netherlands are in Group F alongside Japan, Sweden and Tunisia.

Schmeichel retires: Denmark and Celtic goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, who was part of the Premier League-winning team with Leicester in 2016 in one of football's biggest shocks, has announced his retirement because of a serious shoulder injury. The 39-year-old Schmeichel has been sidelined since Feb.

Nuno to stay as West Ham boss: Nuno Espirito Santo will remain as head coach of West Ham following the club's relegation from the Premier League, the London side announced on Wednesday.

Inglis to captain Australia: Australia captain Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the ODI series in Pakistan after picking up an ankle injury while playing in the IPL. Josh Inglis will take over as captain after Marsh sat out of Lucknow Super Giants' final game on Saturday and flew back to Australia for treatment.

Chandigarh to host 2027 Asian Relays: Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar were on Wednesday awarded hosting rights of next year's Asian Relays and the 2028 Asian Indoor Championships respectively by the continent's athletics governing body during its executive council meeting in Hong Kong. The Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) council meeting was held ahead of the Asian U-20 Championships from May 28 to 31.

HBR BC win: Vinoth (28 points) and Sanketh (27 points) powered HBR BC to a comfortable 100-65 win over Bangalore Vanguards in the state B division basketball league championship at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium courts on Wednesday. **Results:** Semifinal Super League: HBR BC 100 (Vinoth 28, Sanketh 27) bt Bangalore Vanguards 65 (Avinash 35) HT: 48-30.

Vishal, Jude shine: Vishal Kumar and Sebastian Jude scored two goals each as United Aces FC defeated Vanquishers Sports 6-0 in the KSFA 'C' Division league in Bengaluru on Wedneday. In another match, BM FC blanked TFF 2-0 **Results:** United Aces FC 6 (Vishal Kumar 6, 8; Sebastian Jude 32, 51; Kanish NS 10; Sachin Raj R 31) bt Vanquishers Sports 0; BM FC 2 (Anto Xavier 28, Ajith 50) bt TFF 0; FX FC Bangalore 2 (G Sri Kishore 36, Vismay 48) bt Play smart FC 0; NEYFC 1 (S Saathvik Raju 18) drew with Noel Wilson FC 1 (Hashir 27); Real Bengaluru 1 (Vishal Saikia 30+2) drew with Bangalore Champs Academy 1 (Mathu Suthanan 5).

SPICE AND ICE

Rybakina Bundled Out By Ukrainian Yuliia As The Mercury Rises In Paris

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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AFP

COOLING OFF: Djokovic uses an ice pack during his match against France's Valentin Royer

Paris: There were seats for the taking on the show courts — Philippe-Chatrier, Suzanne-Lenglen and Simone-Mathieu — but not a patch of shade across the 34 acres of Roland Garros lay unoccupied on Wednesday, another 30-plus Celsius day at the French Open amid an unprecedented heat wave.

Around the grounds, matches swung wildly and sets ran lopsided as players struggled with energy and concentration. For spectators, though, it was a different kind of endurance test. Hats, sunglasses and paper fans were out in force, as were glasses in hand — beer, wine or water — while they braved conditions through daylight that stretched, like the Seine, almost until 10 pm.

It was the kind of day that carried the feel of an upset.

For the most part, the fancied players held their ground, but second seed Elena Rybakina crashed out of the women's draw.

The 26-year-old Australian Open champion, who appeared to be troubled by the heat and conditions, went down 6-3, 1-6, 6-7 (4-10) to the inspired Ukrainian Yuliia Starodubtseva.

Rybakina, who lost nine of the last 10 games after taking the first set, was barely moving through the second and the early stages of the decider, where she fell behind 0-3. "I won't say that physically I felt really bad. There were matches when I felt worse," Rybakina said, "Definitely the energy was not there. I just couldn't find the right balance on the ball. It was very slippery. In some moments I was just putting my legs, but it was everything out of rhythm. It's tough to say. On the practices it was not as bad."

The afternoon, however, belonged to the Ukrainian.

"Honestly hard to describe. I'm super happy," the 26-year-old Starodubtseva said, "Elena is one of the top players. She's had an incredible year. I'm super proud of myself that I was able to do this today. It was a hard third set, but I got it done."

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek, who beat Czech Sara Bejlek 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the third round, said the conditions took some getting used to. The Pole, who turns 25 on Sunday, said: "Sometimes I made some mistakes while playing high balls, because the ball was jumping quite high. It was not easy to judge if it's the one you should go for or stay back and wait for the next one."

Poland's Magda Linette did Swiatek a favour by knocking out her nemesis Jelena Ostapenko, setting up a third-round meeting with her third-seeded compatriot.

Earlier on Lenglen, 13th seed Karen Khachanov looked stretched to the limit, but the 6 ft 6 in Russian held on for nearly four hours to script a 7-6, 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (4) win over Marco Trungelliti, who at 36 is the oldest man to debut in the top 100 in the Open Era.

"It's the warmest May in Paris in a long time," the 30-year-old Russian said. "For players matches become more physical, mentally you have to be strong, that's the dynamic of the match. Sometimes players have drops in terms of energy and concentration, that's why it's extremely important to hydrate and use ice towels. The conditions are also much faster, the ball is bouncing higher."

Eleventh seed Andrey Rublev walked on court intent on keeping things quick against Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli, who made it a point to put every ball back in play, dragging Rublev back and forth. "I knew that if I want to win, I will need to be the one who dictates," he said after the 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3) win.

Esha wins 25m pistol gold with double WR

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Pune: Esha Singh shot a dream final as she clinched gold in the women's 25m pistol event with world records at the ISSF Munich World Cup on Wednesday. Hyderabad's Esha shot 43 in the final, one more than the previous seniors world record, and two more than the junior world record. Esha, 21, broke Korean shooter Kim Ye-ji's record of 42 shots, set in 2024. The junior record was held by Paris Olympics gold medallist, Yang Ji-in (41) of Korea, also since 2024.

In the final on Wednesday, Esha's dominance could be gauged from the 5-point gap between gold and silver. The second spot was sealed by seasoned German shooter Doreen Vennekamp (38.

The Indian started the final with three perfect series of five shots each. She maintained her rhythm and hit four each in the next two series. She missed only seven shots out of 50 at the end of the 10th series. In the qualifications, Esha was fifth to qualify with 587 (293 in precision and 294 in rapid), while Paris Games double medallist Manu Bhaker was placed 12th. Rahi Sarnobat was 14th.

Esha, who had won bronze at the World Championships last year, said she wanted to win a medal at Munich, but had not thought of winning it in this manner. "The Munich World Cup is a very prestigious event, and the scores go high here, so even qualifying for the finals is a big achievement. I badly wanted to win a medal here. I didn't think of creating a new world record, but I am happy I did as a record with gold at this range would mean a lot," Esha told **TOI**.

The youngster said the win would help her gain confidence ahead of a busy season. "We have the Asian Games, World Championships later this year. I will remember this performance to get confidence, but at the same time, will also work on my future matches," she said.

Esha's coach Ronak Pandit said a grip change did her good.

Injured Firouzja beats Pragg, Divya stuns Humpy

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Oslo: Alireza Firouzja's second GM Ivan Cheparinov dismissed the notion that the Frenchman's opponents were disarmed by the sight of him playing in great physical discomfort.

Firouzja, who suffered an ankle injury about a fortnight ago and has his right leg in a cast and rested up on a chair, defeated R Praggnanandhaa in the Norway elite chess meet on Tuesday.

It was Firouzja's second consecutive classical win (worth three points each), after beating Magnus Carlsen in the opener, giving him a clear lead in the 10-round elite tournament at Oslo Public Library. Firouzja will retain the lead even if he were to lose against D Gukesh in the third round on Wednesday.

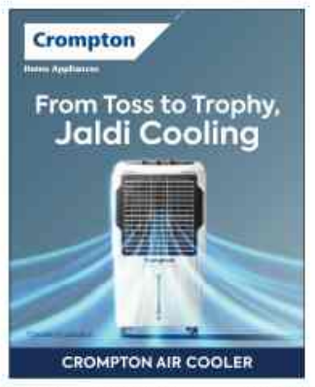
Cheparinov, who had seen many psychological battles when he was working with Veselin Topalov, told **TOI** that Firouzja is going through pain and that is disadvantageous enough. Firouzja told the streaming broadcast: "Playing is making me focus and not think about the pain."

In the women's event, Divya Deshmukh once again got the better of K Humpy, having defeated her in the Women's World Cup final last year. The 20-year-old needed a tiebreak again, this time an Armageddon, after drawing the classical contest.

It's Gukesh vs Carlsen tonight

D Gukesh enjoyed all three parts of last year's sixth round game with Carlsen - the escape act, the Norwegian banging the table in anger and the attention that it got from social media. When asked about that incident, he smiled even though Carlsen was seated next to him. The Norwegian, too, took the reminder lightly When the current and former champions face off in the 4th round on Thursday (starts 8.30pm IST), sparks are expected to fly.

(The journalist is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)



Randhir Singh was a rarity in Indian sport

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New Delhi: Over the past decade, Randhir Singh could be seen once in a while treating his young granddaughter to an ice-cream at a south Delhi Nirula's outlet after picking her up from school. It seemed like delivering on a promise for the well-known face of Indian sports administration, who had decidedly slowed down to spend more time with family.

RANDHIR SINGH: 1946-2026

Singh's death, at the age of 79 due to illness on Wednesday, marks the end of a significant chapter in Indian sport.

These are times when the push is to have accomplished sportspersons in India's much-maligned sports administration, with the move producing mixed or debatable results, but Randhir Singh was the original, and an aberration at that.

While many sportspersons struggle to transition into governance, Singh successfully bridged both worlds with credibility and respect. He belonged to that rare group in Indian sport — individuals who achieved distinction both as elite athletes and as top-level administrators.

A pioneering shooter, Olympian and one of the country's most respected sports administrators, Singh dedicated nearly six decades of his life to Indian and Asian sport. He combined excellence as an athlete with measured and effective leadership as an administrator, earning admiration across generations of sportsmen and officials.

After retiring from competition, Singh moved into sports administration and went on to become one of the most influential figures in the Olympic movement in Asia. As secretary general of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for more than two decades, he played a major role in shaping sports governance in the country and strengthening India's presence in international sporting forums.

He also served in important positions within the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia, where he earned respect for his diplomatic skills and ability to build consensus among sporting bodies. His election as President of the Olympic Council of Asia in 2024 reflected the high regard in which he was held internationally, though health concerns later limited his active involvement.

Like several senior officials associated with Indian sport during the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, Singh's tenure also coincided with a period marked by allegations of irregularities and organisational lapses. However, no wrongdoing was ever linked to him and he continued to enjoy the trust and respect of the sporting fraternity throughout his long administrative career.

Tributes poured in following his death. "We have lost an exceptional leader and his irreplaceable wisdom," IOA president PT Usha said. Abhinav Bindra described him as a figure whose contribution went far beyond medals and official positions. "He was a towering figure in Indian sport, but beyond the positions he held, he carried himself with warmth, dignity, and a genuine love for the Olympic movement," Bindra told **TOI**.

(With inputs from Tushar Dutt)

Setbacks sharpen India's focus

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Bengaluru: An eight-match winless run in the FIH Pro League may not have been part of Craig Fulton's plans for the season, but the Indian men's hockey team is treating it as an early warning ahead of a crucial year featuring the World Cup and Asian Games.

India will resume its Pro League campaign next month with the European leg of the tournament, hoping to turn things around. Captain Harmanpreet Singh, who missed the previous leg due to personal reasons, returns to the side.

Currently placed eighth among nine teams, India begin their campaign against the Netherlands and Germany in Rotterdam from June 14

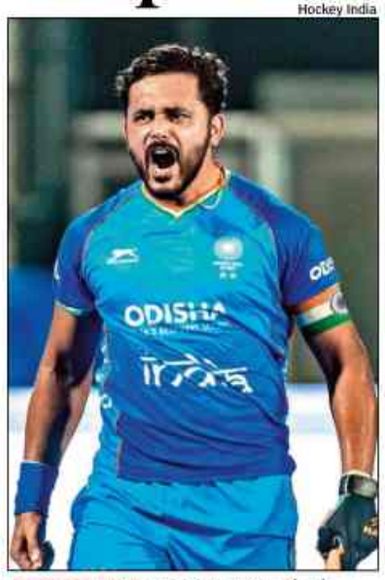
PRO LEAGUE HOCKEY

before travelling to London to face England and Pakistan. According to Fulton, performances during the two legs of the Pro League will play a key role in finalising the squads for the World Cup and Asian Games.

"We didn't start the season well, but are not dwelling on it now because the focus is on the European leg of the Pro League, which is crucial for us in preparing for the World Cup and Asian Games," Harmanpreet told TOI.

The defender stressed the significance of the upcoming marquee tournaments, especially given India's long wait for success at the World Cup. "The back-to-back tournaments are crucial for Indian hockey because we haven't won a World Cup medal in 51 years, and we need to end that wait," he said.

Hockey India


CRUCIAL TIME: Harmanpreet Singh

"And, with the Asian Games being our direct ticket to the Olympics, we have to win it to avoid qualifiers."

Reflecting on the team's struggles in Australia, Harmanpreet said defensive awareness and individual accountability became major focus areas during training. "It is very important that we look at both the goal posts — the one you are attacking and the one you are defending," he explained. "We are working more on how we can do well defensively as a team." He also emphasised the importance of clarity in roles. "We have worked on individual responsibility because every position has its own responsibility. If everyone is not on the same page, we get punished," he added.

The penalty corner specialist, who appears leaner and fitter heading into the European leg, underlined the importance of collective responsibility within the squad. "Although we haven't had the start we wanted to the year, we haven't pointed fingers at each other because in a team sport, individually we are nothing," Harmanpreet said.

"No single player can win or lose a match for the team. So instead of pointing fingers, the focus has been on identifying problems and coming up with solutions," he added.

Meanwhile, goalkeepers Mohith HS, from Karnataka, and Suraj Karkera have retained their places in the squad. Experienced goalkeeper Krishan Pathak, who missed the previous leg, has been named among the standbys, while seasoned midfielder Manpreet Singh returns after missing out last time.

(With inputs from Jia Khosla)

THE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Mohith HS, Suraj Karkera; **Defenders:** Harmanpreet Singh (captain), Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Amandeep Lakra, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh; **Midfielders:** Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh; **Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, Aditya Lalage, Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi.

Ton-up Sheetal stars in Bharath CC win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Sheetal Santosh stole the show with a century in Bharath Cricket Club's comfortable 127-run win over Sapphire Cricket Club in the KSCA senior women's T20 tournament here recently.

Opting to bat, opener Sheetal was in fine form as she hit 17 fours and two sixes in her 60-ball knock. Her opening stand of 103 runs with skipper Poonam (34) laid the foundation for Bharath's 195/2 in 20 overs.

Sapphire needed their top order to fire during the chase, but they faltered. New ball bowler Radhika Navin scalped a wicket in the first over and Sapphire never recovered. from there. They lost more than half their side with 61 runs on the board and were eventually bundled out for a paltry 68 runs. Sharanya Ashwin was the pick of the bowlers with a three-wicket haul for Bharath. Disha R chipped in with two scalps.

Brief scores: Bharath Cricket Club: 195/2 in 20 overs (Sheetal Santosh 115 (60b, 17 x 4, 2 x 6), Poonam 34) **bt Sapphire Cricket Club: 68 all out in 18.2 overs** (Disha R 2-20, Sharanya Ashwin 3-1).

Vultures CC: 209/5 in 20 overs (Annapurna Bhosale 63n.o) **bt Vijaya CC, Malur: 90/8 in 20 overs** (Pooja Kumari M 2-14, Sahana S Pawar 2-1).

Century Cricketers: 134/3 in 20 overs (Aruna Biradar 62 n.o, Smriti Hegde 27; Naumika BN 2-18) **bt Jayanagar United Cricketers: 133/9 in 20 overs** (Paalasa M 25, Clarissa Herald 43; Pratiksha Pandhare 3-18, Vijaylaxmi 3-21, Thanmayi R 2-17).

Friends Union CC (1): 146/1 in 10 overs (Shubha S 40 n.o, Chandasi K 92 n.o) **bt Neptune CC (W): 37/4 in 10 overs** (Namita D'Souza 2-9).

Dooravani Cricketers: 68 all out in 18.5 overs (Shalini D Kalal 4-11) **lost to Wilson Garden CC: 70/2 in 9.4 overs** (Aradhana Heblikar 33n.o).

Bangalore Occasionals: 107/1 in 15 overs (Anushree Samagond 48 n.o, Roshni Tabassum GS 44n.o) **lost to Herons CC: 108/7 in 14.3 overs** (Prarthana S 38). (Delayed due to wet outfield, reduced to 15 overs per side)

Jawans CC: 146/4 in 20 overs (OY Dechamma 56, Zoya Khazi 58 n.o; Mallamuri Sahithi 2-22) **bt Engrades CC: 78/9 in 20 overs** (Varsha Sulakhe 2-8, Aqfin Ruhi 2-8).

Coles CC: 74/2 in 9 overs (Stuthi M 29, Mansi Pundeer 26n.o) **bt Swastic Union CC (1): 61/1 in 9 overs.** (Delayed due to wet outfield, reduced to 15 overs per side).

Seasoned Sumit betters world mark

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Double Paralympic gold medallist **Sumit Antil** continued his fine form as he won the gold after improving his own world record in men's javelin throw (F64 class) on the second day of the Indian Open Para Athletics Championship here on Wednesday.

Antil was assured of the gold in the first round itself after taking a lead of nearly

PARA ATHLETICS

eight meters with a throw of 69.3m, He then improved to 70.30m in his fourth attempt before erasing his previous world record on his fifth attempt with a heave of 74.82m at the Sree Kanteerava stadium. The previous record stood at 73.29m which he set at the 2023 Asian Para Games.

In the men's 400m T12 final, Uttar Pradesh Chirag Tyagi took the gold clocking 50.12s. His teammate, Mohith Pal finished second in 54.06 seconds after staving off the challenge from Delhi's Mohammed Arif who came third in 55.49s.

Syed Asif

Chirag Tyagi

GANGAVVA WINS GOLD

For the hosts, Gangavva Neelap Harijar won the women's javelin throw (F12/13) while Guru Keshava (men's 400m, T39), Babu JP (men's 400m, T47), Soumya (women's 400m, T12), Manjula HK (shot put, F11/12) and Harshita Tater (long jump, T37/38) won silver medals. **Results (K'taka medallists): Men: 400m: T11:** 2. K Guru Keshava (59.72); **T38:** 3. D Sachidananda (1:02.25); **T47:** 2. Babu JP (48.81). **Women: 400m** T12: 2. Soumya (1:06.51); **Javelin throw F12/13:** 1. Gangavva Neelap Harijar (22.85m); **Shot put F11/12:** 2. Manjula HK (7.42m), Gangavva (7.19); **Long jump T37/38:** 2. Harshita Tater (3.13m), 3. Bharathi Bharathesh (2.98).

— Jia Khosla

BSC, Spartons in final

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Skipper **Tanshh Krishna**'s all-round performance propelled Bangalore Sports Club to a 57-run win against RV Engineering College in a low-scoring semifinal contest. At the KSCA Alur-2 ground on Tuesday, RVEC, who

KSCA U-16 LEAGUE

opted to bowl, kept it tight and struck in the 11th over with Atharv Karadi uprooting Pavandeep Bharadakane's stumps.

From thereon, they did not allow the BSC batters to survive, even as Tanshh held up one end. Medium pacers Ujwal Krishna (4/24) and Skandha Shetty (2/27) struck some quick blows to restrict the opposition to 146. At the other end, Tanshh's patient 104-ball 65 included five boundaries.

Defending a paltry total, BSC struck the first blow in the opening over and RVEC didn't recover from it as they found the spin duo of Krishna (3/10) and Tanshh (4/14) too hot to handle.

In the final to be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday, BSC will take on Rajajinagar Cricketers, who registered a three-wicket win against Spartons Sports Club.

Brief scores: Bangalore Sports Club: 146 all out in 44 overs (Tanshh Krishna 65; Atharv Karadi 2-28, Ujwal Krishna 4-24, Skandha Shetty 2-27) **bt RV Engineering College: 89 all out in 43.2 overs** (Lithik Reddy 39, Krishna 3-10, Tanshh 4-14).

Spartons Sports Club: 202/7 in 50 overs (Hrithik Polin 65, Shwetansh RK 57; M Neeraj 2-47) **lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 203/7 in 49.1 overs** (Prabhav Pydah 83).

KARNATAKA MEN STUN TN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vijayeendra Vedanthi (22) led from the front as Karnataka men upset defending champions Tamil Nadu 84-72 to enter the semifinals at the Junior National Basketball Championship in Puducherry on Wednesday.

In the women's quarterfinals, Nidhi Umesh emerged as top scorer with 22 points as Karnataka cruised past

NATIONAL JR BASKETBALL

Madhya Pradesh 76-58. In the semis, Karnataka will take on Maharashtra.

Results (quarterfinals): Women: Tamil Nadu 64 (Ritika Rajasekharan 15, M Kaviya 13) bt Rajasthan 36 (Ankita 18); Chhattisgarh 56 (Anjani 11, Sophy Sika 11) bt Maharashtra 44 (Vedhika Singh 18, Aarya Phatangare 6); Kerala 72 (Arthika K 18, Subadra Jayakumar 16) bt Haryana 47 (Kanika 13); Karnataka 76 (Nidhi Umesh 22, Sravani Shivanna 19, Nilaaya Reddy 15) bt Madhya Pradesh 58 (Laxita Choudhari 19, Swetha Singh 13).

Men: Rajasthan 63 (Muhammed Khan 23, Manish Kumar Maal 14) bt Uttar Pradesh 61 (Shourya Pandey 19, Ansh Tomar 13); Karnataka 84 (Vjayeendra Vedhanthi 22, Vibhav Gowda 12, Adithya Vittal Shenoi 11) bt Tamil Nadu 72 (Yadesh Kumar 20, Sumanesh V 17).

Rise Again bags feature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Fahad Khan-trained Rise Again, ridden by Umesh, won the Season Opener Trophy the feature event here on Wednesday.

1. Dubare Forest Plate (Div-II) 1200M: Fashionista 1, Anushtubha 2, Perfect Heart 3, Jannat 4. Sh, 2-1/4l, 1-1/2l. T: 1:14.67. Tote: Rs 78 (W). 21, 20, 21 (P). Fc: Rs 470. Q: Rs 162. Shp: Rs 41. Thp: Rs 58. Trinalla: Rs 1432 & 710. Exacta: Rs c/o; **2. Melukote Plate 1400M:** Sira 1, Natural One 2, Cloudy Hills 3, I Like Hoo Haa 4, Not run: Just Blues. 3/4l, 2-1/2l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:24.74. Tote: Rs 19 (W). 12, 10, 20 (P). Fc: Rs 53. Q: Rs 26. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 51. Trinalla: Rs 124 & 47. Exacta: Rs 1218 & 689; **3. Dubare Forest Plate (Div-I) 1200M:** Habibti 1, Scout 2, Higher Love 3, Elsa 4, Not run: Gobby. 2-3/4l, 7-1/4l, Lnk. T: 1:12.33. Tote: Rs 23 (W). 11, 18, 57 (P). Fc: Rs 143. Q: Rs 79. Shp: Rs 39. Thp: Rs 120. Trinalla: Rs 1766 & 851. Exacta: Rs 12,579 & 1155; **4. Kushalnagar Plate (Div-II) 1200M:** Silver Quest 1, Chief Admiral 2, Secret Shadow 3, Golden Sabre 4, Not run: Ocean of Grace. 5-1/4l, 3-3/4l, 1-1/4l. T: 1:11.61. Tote: Rs 14 (W). 10, 13, 23 (P). Fc: Rs 39. Q: Rs 23. Shp: Rs 27. Thp: Rs 36. Trinalla: Rs 247 & 132. Exacta: Rs 992 & 481; **5. Beloved Prince Plate 1100M:** Gold Ride 1, Klimt 2, Seolfor Bullet 3, Silent Achiever 4, Not run: D Gold Star. 4-1/2l, 2l, 2-1/2l. T: 1:04.71. Tote: Rs 19 (W). 12, 11, 17 (P). Fc: Rs 48. Q: Rs 29. Shp: Rs 29. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 101 & 44. Exacta: Rs 1039 & 522; **6. Season Opener Trophy 1400M:** Rise Again 1, Drisana 2, Heroism 3, Mother's Grace 4. 3/4l, 3/4l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:23.80. Tote: Rs 31 (W). 14, 82, 20 (P). Fc: Rs 1391. Q: Rs 684. Shp: Rs 267. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 6896 & 1642. Exacta: Rs 10,750 & 4607; **7. Kushalnagar Plate (Div-I) 1200M:** Balgownie 1, Super Stride 2, Red Hills 3, Miraculous Girl 4. 2-3/4l, 1-1/4l, 3-1/4l. T: 1:12.16. Tote: Rs 28 (W). 14, 33, 28 (P). Fc: Rs 1474. Q: Rs 1703. Shp: Rs 118. Thp: Rs 82. Trinalla: Rs C/O & 6496. Exacta: Rs 9124 & 3910; **8. Trombay Plate 1400M:** Bluemed 1, Splendido 2, Royal Baron 3, Metzinger 4. Lnk, 4-1/4l, 3/4l. T: 1:25.19. Tote: Rs 45 (W). 19, 23, 15 (P). Fc: Rs 559. Q: Rs 473. Shp: Rs 57. Thp: Rs 37. Trinalla: Rs 2718 & 1830. Exacta: Rs 30955 & 13266; **Jackpot:** Rs 2,290. **Runner-up:** Rs 147.

Mini Jackpot: Rs 1,284; **First Treble:** Rs 552; **Second Treble:** Rs 110; **Third Treble:** Rs 606.

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THE TIMES

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VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI SMASHES 97 OFF 29 BALLS, BREAKS RECORD FOR MOST SIXERS IN AN IPL SEASON AS RAJ ROYALS THRASH SRH 20

CM Siddaramaiah set to resign today; DKS poised to succeed

CM Pushes For CLP Meet To Elect Successor

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Bengaluru: Barring a last-minute surprise, chief minister Siddaramaiah is set to resign Thursday, ending a political journey that saw him serve more than eight years and 12 days as Karnataka CM across two terms, surpassing the record of his mentor and backward class champion D Devaraj Urs.

FULL COVERAGE: P 2

A senior official at Karnataka Lok Bhavan confirmed that Siddaramaiah had sought time to meet the governor Thursday afternoon.

The move is expected to clear the decks for deputy CM D K Shivakumar to take over as the next chief minister after nearly three years of internal power tussle, though the party remained officially silent on his elevation.

However, sources said Siddaramaiah is learnt to be pushing for a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting to elect his successor, a move seen by party insiders as an attempt to block Shivakumar's path to the top post. Siddaramaiah's camp believes a formal CLP election could throw up home minister G Parameshwara as a consensus candidate, especially with sections of MLAs expected to back the senior Dalit leader. Such a development would not only stall Shivakumar's elevation but also allow Siddaramaiah to claim credit for facilitating Karnataka's first Dalit CM from the Congress.

Congress insiders familiar with developments said Siddaramaiah agreed to step down after directions from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, whom the veteran leader credits for backing him to become CM twice despite being viewed as an outsider within the party structure. Siddaramaiah had repeatedly maintained that he would make way for a new face if Rahul asked him to do so.

Senior Congress MLA and administrative reforms commission chairperson R V Deshpande said Siddaramaiah confirmed the decision during a meeting at the CM's residence. The CM said he had given his word to the high command and would honour it.

▶Surjewala in city, P 6

The CM speaks to an emotional staff at Vidhana Soudha Wednesday

Panel hands over caste survey to CM

Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes submitted its long-delayed socio educational survey report, popularly known as the caste census, to the govt after a nudge from CM Siddaramaiah. Sources say the commission was keen on submitting the report while Siddaramaiah was still CM. **P 2**

After 2 suspected Ebola cases, govt ups screening

Health authorities tightened surveillance after two suspected Ebola cases. Teams are contacting travellers from affected African nations, monitoring and isolating those with even mild symptoms. A **Uganda woman isolated in Bengaluru tested negative**, while a traveller with fever was isolated in Gujarat. Two of his associates and a doctor are under observation. **P 6 & 17**

Singapore court finds Byju's founder guilty of contempt, awards 6-mth jail

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Bengaluru: **Byju Raveendran** has been sentenced to six months in prison by a Singapore court in a contempt case linked to asset disclosure orders, as per people familiar with the matter, adding that he has been directed to begin serving the sentence on June 15. It comes after Bloomberg reported that the court found the Byju's founder guilty of contempt for disobeying multiple court orders related to his assets.

Soon after, Raveendran claimed on X that lenders including GLAS Trust and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), and founders and stakeholders, had reached an "in-principle" settlement. He also claimed that parties had acknowledged there was "no wrongdoing" by him or other founders. But, a source familiar with the lenders said, "There is no agreement between Byju and the lenders. There is no acknowledgment that there has been no wrongdoing on Byju's part or on the part of the other founders."

QIA told **TOI** that it was satisfied with the ruling.

▶Case procedural, P 19

More Girls At Birth Than Before, But Still Too Few

At 918 girls per 1,000 boys, India's sex ratio at birth is up from its 2015-17 low — but remains well below the WHO observed natural ratio of 952 girls for 1,000 boys

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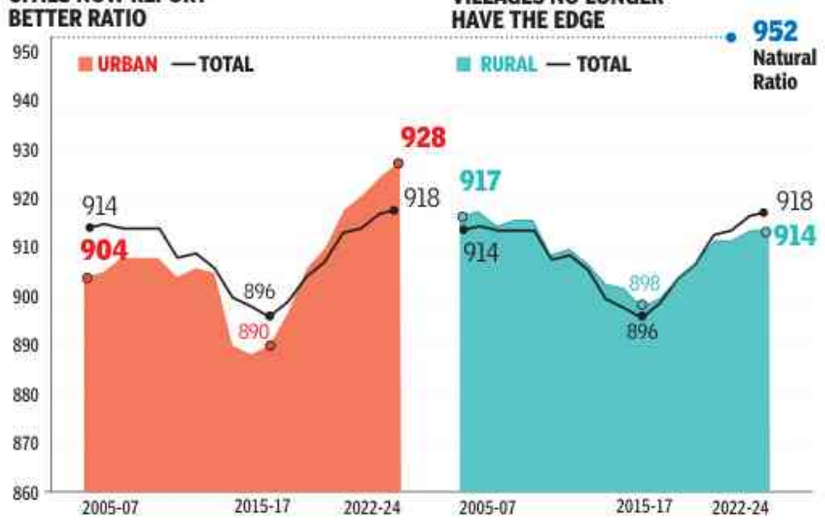
India's sex ratio at birth (SRB) has improved from its recent low, but not by much. The latest SRS 2024 data put it at 918 girls per 1,000 boys for 2022-24, up from the low of 896 in 2015-17, still far below the biologically expected level. WHO data reports sex ratio at birth as male births per female births; the commonly observed natural level is about 105 boys for every 100 girls, which translates to roughly 952 girls per 1,000 boys. A slight excess of boys at birth is normal because male infants are biologically more vulnerable, so nature appears to build in a small cushion.

SRB should not be confused with overall sex ratio or child sex ratio. SRB measures births in a recent period; child sex ratio reflects both births and survival among children; overall sex ratio reflects the entire population. Also, SRS is sample-based, so the safest reading is not tiny year-to-year movement, especially in smaller states/UTs, but broad three-year averages and longer trends.

The worrying message from the data is this: India has improved from its worst point, but after nearly two decades, the national SRB is only four points better than 2005-07, and the rural number is actually worse. Urban India, once seen as more prone to sex selection, now reports a better SRB than rural India. So, India's missing girls problem has eased a bit but not ended. With falling fertility rates and smaller families, some states may see a rise in 'son-only' families.

CITIES NOW REPORT BETTER RATIO

VILLAGES NO LONGER HAVE THE EDGE



WORSE THAN 20 YEARS AGO

Although India's SRB has improved since the 2015-17 low, several states still have a worse birth sex ratio than they did in 2005-07. Bihar has fallen from 940 to 896, Odisha from 952 to 921, West Bengal from 964 to 933, Madhya Pradesh from 935 to 919, Tamil Nadu from 950 to 936, and Assam from 950 to 946. The key point: recovery from the recent bottom does not mean the long-term damage has been repaired

In Some States, Urban Areas Doing Better...

SRB in 2022-24	Total	Rural	Urban	Gap*
Uttar Pradesh	916	902	**967**	65
Madhya Pradesh	919	912	**946**	34
Assam	946	943	**971**	28
Andhra Pradesh	946	940	**959**	19
Rajasthan	917	913	**931**	18
Tamil Nadu	936	926	**944**	18
Punjab	910	903	**920**	17
Bihar	896	895	**910**	15
West Bengal	933	930	**942**	12
Haryana	885	882	**891**	9
Jammu	924	923	**930**	7
Telangana	917	915	**920**	5

...Though Reverse Is True In Some States

Uttarakhand	872	**872**	870	-2
Kerala	974	**976**	972	-4
Gujarat	905	**908**	901	-7
Odisha	921	**922**	913	-9
Karnataka	932	**936**	926	-10
Himachal	956	**956**	944	-12
Jharkhand	927	**931**	913	-18
Maharashtra	899	**910**	885	-25
Chhattisgarh	978	**990**	925	-65
Delhi	876	**974**	874	-100

SRB = Girls born per 1,000 boys

*Between rural and urban SRB

AI to cut 22% of domestic flights, fares set to go up

IndiGo Also Suspending Some Ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air travellers should brace for higher domestic fares and fewer flights this summer.

Air India, AI Express and IndiGo will together remove about 250 domestic flights per day from June to Aug as operating costs spiral on rising jet fuel prices and a weakening rupee amid slowing demand.

Airlines say discretionary travel is among the first items to be curtailed when householders and business units try to make ends meet when everything costs more.

After suspending 145 weekly international flights, loss-making Air India will now slash its domestic flights by about 22% this summer due to rising jet fuel prices.

The airline reported a loss of about Rs 25,000 crore last fiscal and is pulling out all stops to cut costs at a time when operating expenditure has soared. AI operates around 4,400 weekly flights. Of them, about 3,600 are domestic and 800 international. Roughly 800 weekly domestic flights may be cut now.

WINGS CLIPPED

IndiGo is also temporarily suspending 7-10% of its domestic flights this summer but says there are seasonal cuts, and not part of any cost-cutting. The airline operates about 2,200 flights daily.

An AI spokesperson said: "In continuation of our... adjustments to select international services between June and Aug 2026, we have temporarily rationalised operations on certain domestic routes during the same period, with a reduction in frequencies on select routes. These adjustments are driven by the sustained impact of high fuel prices on operations."

"Air India will continue to monitor demand and operating conditions closely, with a view to restoring frequencies as conditions stabilise. Passengers impacted by these changes will be proactively assisted with re-accommodation on alternative flights, complimentary date changes, or full refunds, as applicable," the spokesperson said.

Earlier this month, AI had decided to suspend an additional 145 weekly flights between June and Aug. These new cuts, on top of almost 100 daily flights being suspended, will mean even higher fares on the truncated supply this summer as big Gulf carriers are also operating at reduced capacity.

Asaram asked to surrender as HC upholds life term

Jodhpur: Rajasthan HC on Wednesday upheld the life sentence awarded to Asaram for the sexual assault of a minor at his gurukul nearly a decade ago, reports **Ajay Parmar**.

The court dismissed his appeals seeking relief but set aside certain charges related to gang rape and penetrative sexual assault.

The disgraced preacher was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court on April 25, 2018, after being found guilty under multiple charges, including those under the Pocso Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Following the verdict, the HC directed Asaram, currently out on bail, to surrender. The division bench of Justice Arun Monga and Justice Yogendra Kumar Purohit said, "If any leniency is granted to the convict, it would shake society's faith in the criminal justice system and send a wrong message no court must ever send, least of all when the perpetrator hid behind the cloak of a self-styled godman."

The HC acquitted two of his co-convicts, Sanchita alias Shilpi and Sharat Chandra.

Govt leaves out HAL as it starts search for pvt partner to build 5th-gen fighter

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New Delhi: In an important step towards building India's own stealth 5th-generation fighter jet, the defence ministry on Wednesday issued a request for proposal (RFP) and invited three shortlisted private players for development and production of five prototypes of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which will rival US's F35 and Russian Su-57 once developed. AMCA prototype phase is budgeted at Rs 15,000 crore.

For the first time, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd won't be part of a big-ticket fighter jet programme, as the defence PSU is engaged with the 4.5-generation Tejas fighter programme and two orders for Tejas jets from IAF.

The shortlisted bidders are Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen & Toubro plus Bharat Electronics Limited, and Bharat Forge plus BEML Limited.

The shortlisted bidders for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft project are Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen & Toubro plus Bharat Electronics Limited, and Bharat Forge plus BEML Limited

AMCA will be produced under the design and expertise of DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency. While the first AMCA prototype is likely to be completed by early 2027, the first flight of the multi-role fighter will take place between 2028-29. Its serial production would start in the mid-2030s.

Once the prototype gets clearance and Cabinet Committee on Security gives its nod, AMCA will be manufactured at the Integration and Flight Testing Complex in Andhra Pradesh.

Featuring super-cruise, internal weapons bays and advanced AI, AMCA is expected to have an operational ceiling of 55,000 feet and carry 1,500kg in weapons in its bays, with 5,500kg more externally.

India seeks to upgrade Su-30MKI jets

New Delhi: In a move aimed to strengthen IAF's electronic warfare capabilities, the defence ministry has issued a request for proposal to upgrade the fleet of Su-30MKI fighters with a state-of-the-art anti-jamming, anti-spoofing multi-constellation GPS antenna, reports **Surendra Singh**.

The antenna will be able to operate under multiple satellite navigation constellations simultaneously, including India's NaVIC system, GLONASS, BeiDou, Galileo, and the GAGAN satellite-based augmentation system. The system is required to operate across the full flight envelope of the Su-30MKI, functioning at altitudes up to 21km, speeds up to Mach 1.5 and accelerations ranging from -2g to 9g.

IAF operates about 258 Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.